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PLANET COMICS
10¢
JANUARY
No. 22
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DARING EXPLORER OF THE UNKNOWN SPACEWAYS
in
"INFERNO ON THE FIFTH MOON"
"THE LOST WORLD"
FEATURING
HUNT BOWMAN
REEF RYAN
in
"SORCERESS OF XALAN"
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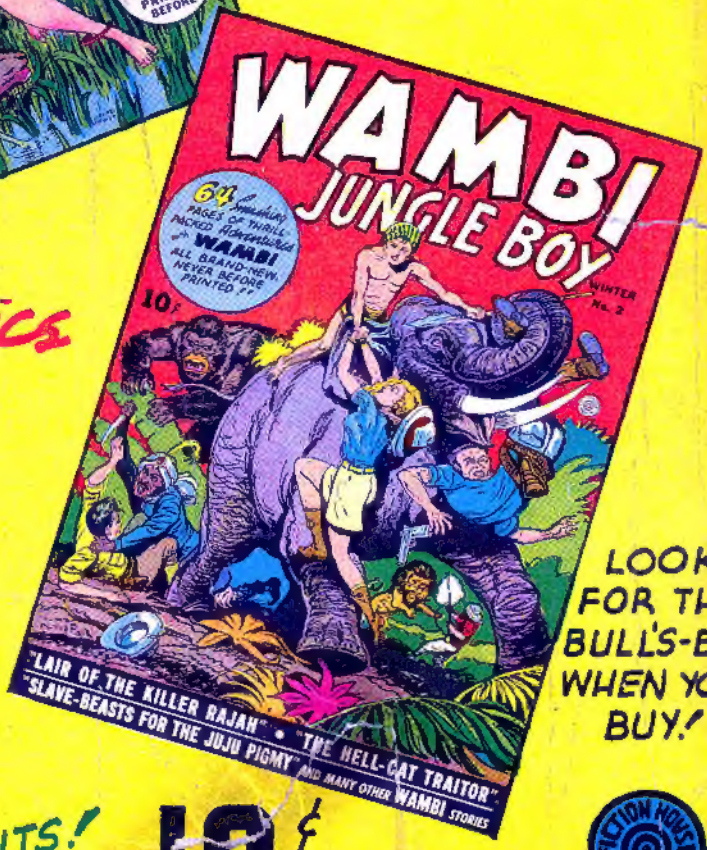
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THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS (No. 23, MARCH) WILL BE ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSSTAND JAN. 10th.

MARS

GOD of WAR
by ROSS GALLUN

UNDER THE IMPENETRABLE, CLOUD-HIDDEN SURFACE OF THE MYSTERY PLANET, SATURN, A STRANGE BEING SCANS THE UNIVERSE AS THE SPIRIT OF MARS, GOD OF WAR, LOOKS ON.

I, ZAGRO, RULER OF SATURN, AM NOT KNOWN OUTSIDE THIS SMALL SPHERE! IF ONLY I COULD EXTEND MY POWER SO THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WOULD TREMBLE AT MY NAME!

THIS IS THE MAN I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

©GM

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PLANET #22 F-1 P-1.

WITH THIS MAN AS MY TOOL, I'LL HURL THE UNIVERSE INTO CHAOS!

NOW TO ENTER HIS BODY. EVERY LIVING BEING WILL FEEL MY POWER!

IF I CAN ASSEMBLE ENOUGH SLAVES, I'LL BUILD A FLEET OF SPACE-SHIPS AND START MY INVASION!

I'LL SEND OUT A COUPLE OF MY SHIPS, CAPTURE THE PASSENGERS ON ONE OF THOSE SPACE-LINERS AND FORCE THEM TO BUILD THE FLEET FOR ME!

LATER, WITH ZAGRO AT THE CONTROLS, A HUGE SPACE-SHIP SPEEDS THROUGH THE STARRY HEAVENS

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, A SUPER SPACE-LINER PREPARES TO TAKE OFF FOR JUPITER ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE.

A PASSENGER BIDS FAREWELL TO HER FRIENDS.

YOU WON'T STAY AWAY LONG, WILL YOU, FLO?

NO, I'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS...GOOD-BYE

TRAVELING WITH THE UNHEARD-OF SPEED OF 1,000 MILES A SECOND, THE LINER ZOOMS FROM ITS TROUGH.

©GM

A HUGE FLOATING PALACE, A SUPER SPACE-SHIP, IS THE REALIZATION OF THE FANTASTIC PREDICTIONS OF THE DARK AGES OF 1942.

ON BOARD, BILL TAYLOR, THE YOUNG CAPTAIN, SPEAKS TO ONE OF THE PASSENGERS.

MISS DAVIS, WOULD YOU CARE TO VISIT THE CONTROL ROOM?

IT WOULD GIVE ME A GREAT THRILL, CAPTAIN! THIS IS MY FIRST TRIP ACROSS THE SPACE WAYS!

IN THE CONTROL ROOM.

JUST THINK! AS LITTLE AS TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, EARTHMEN LAUGHED AT THE IDEA THESE PLANETS AND PLANETOIDS WERE INHABITED!

I'M GLAD I DIDN'T LIVE IN SUCH UN-ENLIGHTENED DAYS!

LATER.

THAT'S OUR FIRST STOP! IT'S A SMALL PLANETOID OWNED BY MY COMPANY, SPACE-WAYS, INCORPORATED. WE LAND THERE TO REFUEL!

MEANWHILE HAVING TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE FUEL STATION ON PLANETOID M, ZAGRO AND HIS HENCHMEN AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE LINER.

THE DEVILS! THEY TOOK US PRISONERS BEFORE WE COULD WARN OUR COMPANY!

THE EARTH-JUPITER LINER IS COMING IN! WE'LL CAPTURE A COUPLE OF THOUSAND SLAVES AND THE FINEST LINER BUILT!

OUTSIDE THE STATION, THE PASSENGERS TAKE A STROLL AS THE CREW PREPARES TO REFUEL

WE STOP HERE FOR AN HOUR! LET'S VISIT THE ATTENDANTS!

I SUSPECT THEY DO GET LONESOME!

©GM

UNSUSPECTING, CAPTAIN TAYLOR AND FLO WALK INTO THE TRAP!

HERE COMES THE CAPTAIN! GET READY, MEN!

HI, FELLOWS! BETTER RUSH OUR DELIVERY!... WHAT!

THEY'RE MONSTERS!

GRAB HIM!

KEEP YOUR FILTHY WEBBED HANDS OFF US!

UGH!

TAKE THAT, GOONS!

I'VE GOT THE GIRL!

NOOO! BILL!

LET GO OF HER, PUCKER MOUTH!

BILL, DON'T LET HIM TOUCH ME!

SUPERIOR NUMBERS DRAG THE FIGHTING CAPTAIN TO THE GROUND.

I'LL CRACK HIS SKULL OPEN!

TIE HIM UP! WE'VE GOT TO CAPTURE THE OTHERS!

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PLANET #22 F-4 P-4

POURING FROM THE STATION THE VENUSIANS HURL THEMSELVES ON THE UNSUSPECTING PASSENGERS.

SURPRISED AND UNARMED, THE EARTHMEN ARE QUICKLY SUBDUED...

...AND LINED UP BEFORE THE SHIP.

THIS IS AN ACT OF PIRACY!

SO WHAT? I'LL SOON RULE THE UNIVERSE AND THESE PRISONERS WILL HELP ME!

LOAD THEM IN THE HOLD! WE'LL START BACK TO VENUS!

LATER, PIRATE CRAFT AND LINER SPEED TOWARD THE WATER PLANET..

...AND LAND NEAR ZAGRO'S PLACE.

PUT THE PRISONERS TO WORK MINING THE KALOMITE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SPACE-FLEET! IF THEY DON'T PRODUCE TWENTY POUNDS A DAY, THEY'RE NOT TO RECEIVE THE VITRANE INJECTION REQUIRED BY EARTHMEN ON VENUS!

©GM

NEXT DAY, THE SLAVES ARE PUT TO WORK IN THE KALOMITE QUARRY.

SIDE BY SIDE, BILL AND FLO TOIL TO FILL THEIR BASKETS.

HERE COME THE GUARDS TO WEIGH THE STUFF!

I WONDER WHAT MY FRIENDS ON JUPITER WILL THINK WHEN I DON'T SHOW UP?

CAREFULLY, THE GUARDS EXAMINE THE DAYS OUTPUT.

THIS MEETS REQUIREMENTS! GIVE THEM THE INJECTION OF VITRANE!

ONLY ONE HAS FAILED TO MEET THE TEST!

SUDDENLY, A SCREAM ECHOES THROUGH THE QUARRY.

OHHH!

LOOK, THAT'S THE ONE THEY WOULDN'T GIVE THE INJECTION TO!

POOR MAN!

TURNING HER EYES FROM THE HORRIBLE SIGHT..

LOOK!

UNDERMINED BY THE CONSTANT DIGGING, TONS OF ROCK AND EARTH BEGIN TO CRASH DOWN ON THE WORKERS.

IT'S A LANDSLIDE! ..INTO THE CAVE WITH YOU!

OHH!

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OHH!

MY FOOT . A STONE HIT IT! I WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK!

I'LL TRY TO DIG ENOUGH OF THE STUFF FOR BOTH OF US! THE GUARDS ARE COMING BACK!

SUDDENLY, THE GUARDS GRAB FLO

ZAGRO WISHES TO SEE YOU!

COME WITH US!

WHAT! NOOO!

LEAPING BETWEEN THEM, BILL DRIVES HOME A POWERFUL BLOW!

THAT'S WHAT I THINK OF ZAGRO'S HENCHMEN!

THIS EARTHMAN IS FEARLESS!

YOU TOO, WEB FOOT!

GRABBING FLO IN HIS ARMS, BILL RACES FROM THE PURSUERS.

STOP HIM!

BILL, THEY'RE GAINING!

FLINGING THEMSELVES ON THE STAUNCH DEFENDER, THE GUARDS OVERWHELM HIM.

CORNERED, THE CAPTAIN FACES THE SATURNIANS

YOU'LL KNOW YOU'VE BEEN IN A FIGHT BEFORE YOU FINISH!

PILE IN!

COME ON, FELLOWS, DO YOUR STUFF!

©GM

AS BILL GOES DOWN UNDER AN AVALANCHE OF PLUNGING CREATURES, FLO IS DRAGGED AWAY TO ZAGRO'S PLACE.

DON'T TAKE ME AWAY!... OHHHHH...

WE'VE GOT HIM!

IF SHE IS HARMED SOMEONE WILL PAY DEARLY!

LATER BILL IS TOSSED INTO A DUNGEON...

WHAT? ANOTHER PRISONER?

EARTHMAN, TOMORROW YOU DIE!

RECOVERING HIS BREATH, BILL IS CONFRONTED BY AN OLD MAN

SON, YOU ARE THE FIRST EARTHMAN I'VE SET MY EYES ON IN TWENTY YEARS! I BUILT ZAGRO'S FIRST SPACE SHIPS FOR HIM AND THEN REFUSED TO IMPROVE THE DESIGN WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS GOING TO TRY TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE!

CAN'T WE GET OUT OF THIS PLACE?

SHHH... EVERY DAY FOR TWENTY YEARS, I'VE CHIPPED AWAY AT A ROCK! PERHAPS YOU ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO MOVE IT!

GRIPPING THE STONE, BILL PULLS WITH ALL HIS POWER...

IT'S MOVING!

YOU DID IT! THIS PASSAGE MUST LEAD INTO THE PALACE CELLAR! SON, AHEAD LIES FREEDOM!

FIRST I WANT TO LAY MY HANDS ON ZAGRO!

CREEPING ON HANDS AND KNEES, THEY CRAWL THROUGH THE UNUSED CELLAR.

LET'S HURRY, FLO MAY NEED HELP!

FOLLOW ME! THE STAIRS TO THE CHAMBER ARE AT THE END OF THE PASSAGE!

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MEANWHILE, IN ZAGRO'S CHAMBER

EARTH GIRL! THE SPACE SHIPS I AM BUILDING TO USE TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE ARE NEARLY FINISHED. YOU WILL RULE AT MY SIDE!

NEVER!

SWOOPING DOWN, ZAGRO GATHERS HER IN HIS ARMS

ZAGRO HAS SPOKEN!

NOO!

SUDDENLY, WILD-EYED WITH FURY, BILL BURSTS INTO THE ROOM

STOP!

TAKE HIM!

BILL! YOU'VE COME!

NOT THIS TIME YOU WON'T!

PLUNGING FORWARD, BILL SMASHES INTO THE CRUEL BEASTS.

TAKE THAT, LUG!

OWW!

SWINGING ONE OF THE MEN OVER HIS HEAD, BILL SENDS HIM CRASHING INTO THE FACES OF HIS COMRADES

STRIKE!

FLO! DID THEY HURT YOU?

NO BILL! LOOK OUT!

ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE, I'M GOING TO BLAST YOU TO FIERY ATOMS!

©GM

RECKLESSLY FLINGING HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE GUN, THE OLD SCIENTIST VOLUNTARILY SACRIFICES HIS LIFE.

YOU WON'T HARM THEM! UGHHHHH!

HURDLING THE FALLEN BODY, BILL SMASHES INTO THE INHUMAN FISHMAN.

YOU COLD BLOODED FIEND!

WHAT!

RELENTLESSLY, HE BEATS THE LEERING COUNTENANCE . . .

THIS IS HOW THEY TREATED DICTATORS BACK IN 1942!

DON'T! OHHHHH

UGH, THAT'S DONE! NOW TO RESCUE THE PRISONERS!

WE OWE OUR LIVES TO THAT OLD MAN!

MEANWHILE, MARS, GOD OF WAR, VACATES THE BODY OF THE CRUSHED DICTATOR

DEFEATED BY AN EARTH-MAN'S COURAGE! ...BAH!

LATER, RALLYING THE SLAVES, BILL HURLS THE MEN AGAINST THE DEMORALIZED AND LEADERLESS SATURNIANS.

NEXT DAY, THE VICTORIOUS EARTH-PEOPLE RESUME THEIR JOURNEY TOWARD JUPITER.

MARS, GOD OF WAR, AGAIN THROWS DOWN HIS BLOOD-DRENCHED GAUNTLET TO CHALLENGE THE PEACE OF THE UNIVERSE. IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

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BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS FOR VICTORY
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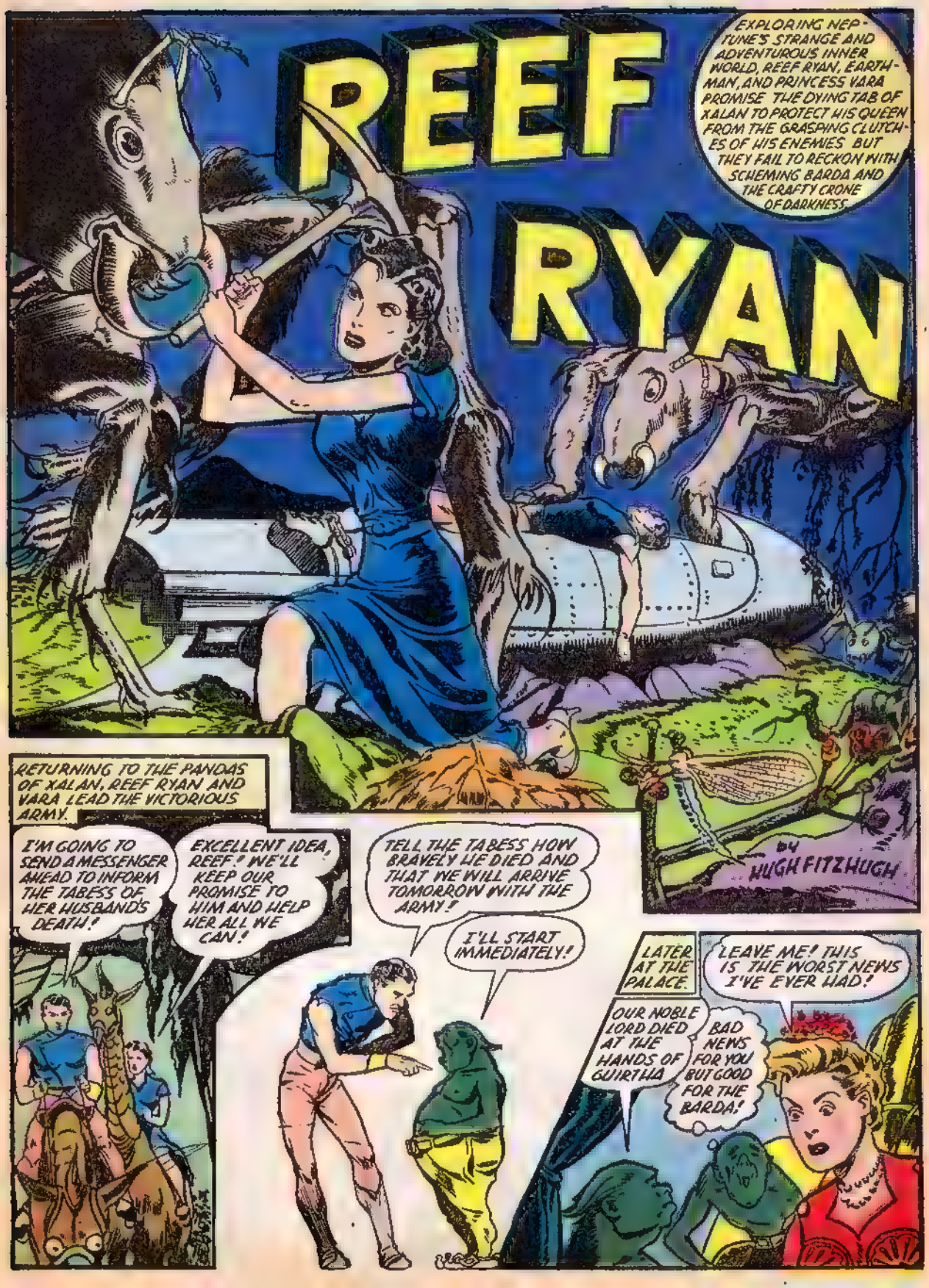
PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 10th


REEF RYAN
EXPLORING NEPTUNE'S STRANGE AND ADVENTUROUS INNER WORLD, REEF RYAN, EARTHMAN, AND PRINCESS VARA PROMISE THE DYING TAB OF XALAN TO PROTECT HIS QUEEN FROM THE GRASPING CLUTCHES OF HIS ENEMIES BUT THEY FAIL TO RECKON WITH SCHEMING BARDA AND THE CRAFTY CRONE OF DARKNESS
BY HUGH FITZHUGH
RETURNING TO THE PANDAS OF XALAN, REEF RYAN AND VARA LEAD THE VICTORIOUS ARMY.
I'M GOING TO SEND A MESSENGER AHEAD TO INFORM THE TABESS OF HER HUSBAND'S DEATH!
EXCELLENT IDEA, REEF! WE'LL KEEP OUR PROMISE TO HIM AND HELP HER ALL WE CAN!
TELL THE TABESS HOW BRAVELY HE DIED AND THAT WE WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW WITH THE ARMY!
I'LL START IMMEDIATELY!
LATER AT THE PALACE.
OUR NOBLE LORD DIED AT THE HANDS OF QUIRTHA
BAD NEWS FOR YOU BUT GOOD FOR THE BARDA!
LEAVE ME! THIS IS THE WORST NEWS I'VE EVER HAD!

HEARTBROKEN OVER THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND, THE TABESS IS TAKEN AWAY BY HER COMPANION!

I SUPPOSE EVERY TAB IN NEPTUNE WILL BE AFTER MY THRONE!

TABESS, YOU MUST BE BRAVE. COME WITH ME!

MEANWHILE, THE TREACHEROUS BARDA MULLS OVER A SCHEME TO SEIZE THE THRONE.

I'LL VISIT WASEL! SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING!

SILENTLY, HE LEAVES THE ROOKA AND SLINKS INTO THE NIGHT.

IF I CAN MAKE THE TABESS LOOK UPON ME WITH FAVOR I'LL BE THE NEXT RULER OF XALAN!

DEEP IN THE FOREST, A FRIGHTFUL CREATURE PEERS INTO A BUBBLING KETTLE!

SOMEONE WITH MURDER IN HIS HEART CREEPS ALONG MY PATH! I KNOW... I KNOW!

TURNING SUDDENLY, THE HAG CONFRONTS THE BARDA.

WHO ARE YOU? .. FOR WHAT EVIL DEED DO YOU SEEK WASEL?

I AM THE BARDA OF THE FORMER TAB OF XALAN!. HE IS DEAD! I HAVE COME TO DO BUSINESS WITH YOU!

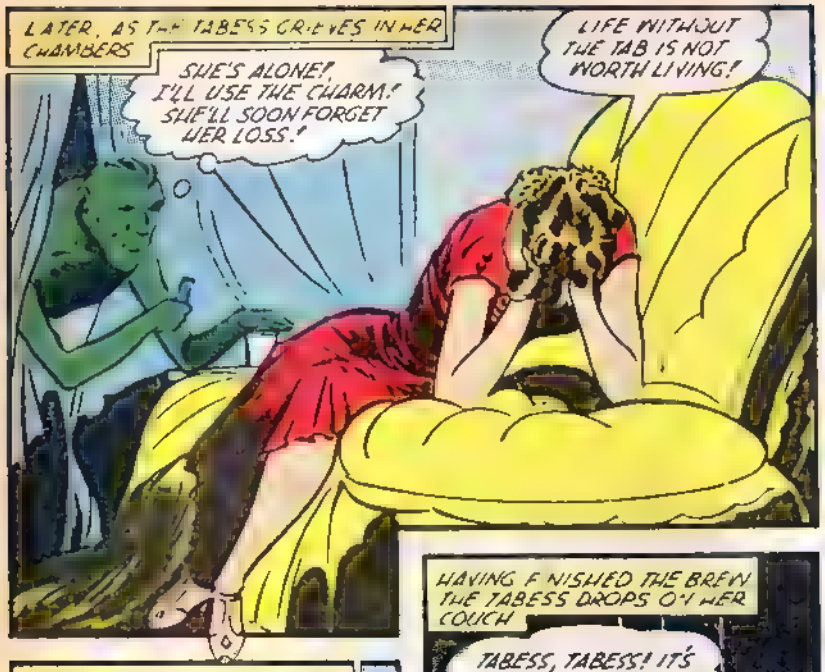
I WANT SOME TOKEN WHICH WILL MAKE A PERSON OBEY MY COMMANDS AND CRAVE MY COMPANY!

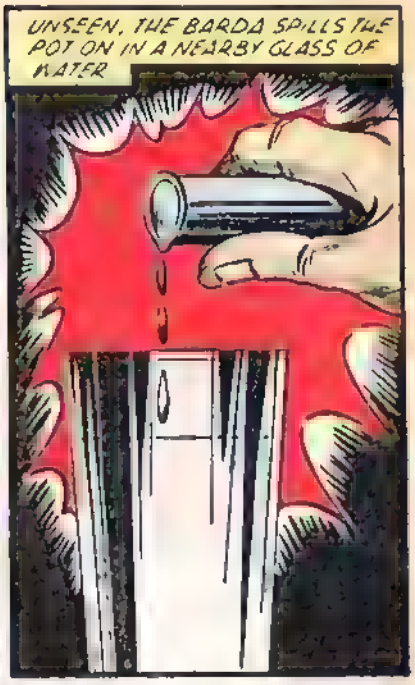
HUSH!. SPEAK SOFTLY!. . EVEN THE LEAVES HAVE EARS! SUCH A TOKEN WILL COST MUCH GOLD!

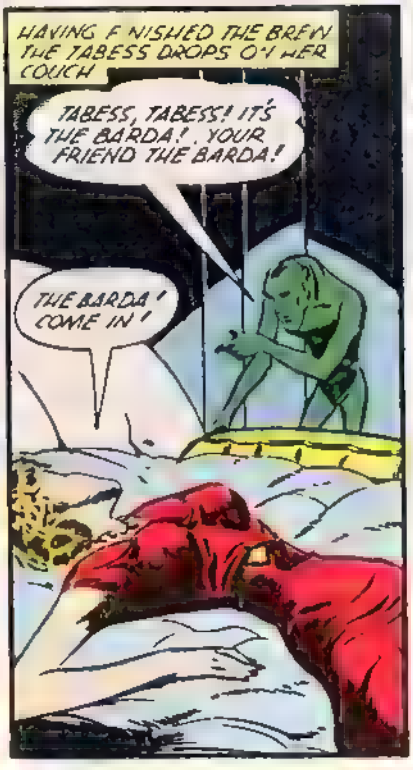
IN THE FLICKERING CANDLE LIGHT, THE BARGAIN IS STRUCK!

AGREED! HERE IS THE STUFF! TAKEN IN A DRINK IT WILL ENSLAVE THE DRINKER FOR AN ENTIRE DAY! TOMORROW YOU WILL BRING ME ONE THOUSAND GOLD RADS!

TOMORROW I'LL COUNT THE GOLD INTO YOUR HAND!


LATER, AS THE TABESS GRIEVES IN HER CHAMBERS
SHE'S ALONE! I'LL USE THE CHARM! SHE'LL SOON FORGET HER LOSS!
LIFE WITHOUT THE TAB IS NOT WORTH LIVING!


UNSEEN, THE BARDA SPILLS THE POT ON IN A NEARBY GLASS OF WATER


HAVING FINISHED THE BREW THE TABESS DROPS O'ER HER COUCH
TABESS, TABESS! IT'S THE BARDA! YOUR FRIEND THE BARDA!
THE BARDA! COME IN!

SILENTLY LURKING IN THE SHADOWS, HE WATCHES UNTIL SHE DRINKS.
IF I CAN GO TO SLEEP I'LL FORGET MY TROUBLES!

THEY LIE WHEN THEY SAY THAT GUIRTHA KILLED THE XALAN! IT WAS THAT FORMER SLAVE .. REEF RYAN WHO DID THE DEED!
REEF RYAN! I THOUGHT HE WAS MY HUSBAND'S FRIEND! I'LL HAVE REVENGE!

NEXT DAY, REEF AND VARA ENTER THE CITY
THE TABESS REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE AT THE ROOKA!
POOR WOMAN, WE'LL GO TO HER IMMEDIATELY!

ENTERING THE THRONE ROOM, REEF AND VARA ARE SUDDENLY ATTACKED BY THE GUARDS!
REEF! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
I DON'T GET IT! TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME!
SEIZE HIM!

OVERPOWERED, THEY ARE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TABESS

TRAITORS! YOU KILLED THE TAB' GUARDS! SHOOT THE MAN TO THE TANTS AND PUT THE GIRL TO WORK IN THE MINES!

WE ARE FRIENDS!. YOU MUST LISTEN TO US!

GUIRTHA KILLED YOUR HUSBAND! I WAS

SILENCE! I WON'T LISTEN TO YOUR LIES! TAKE THEM AWAY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, REEF IS TIED TO A HUGE ROCKET.

AIM IT AT THE TANT HILL! THEY'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF HIM!

IT'S ALL A MISTAKE!

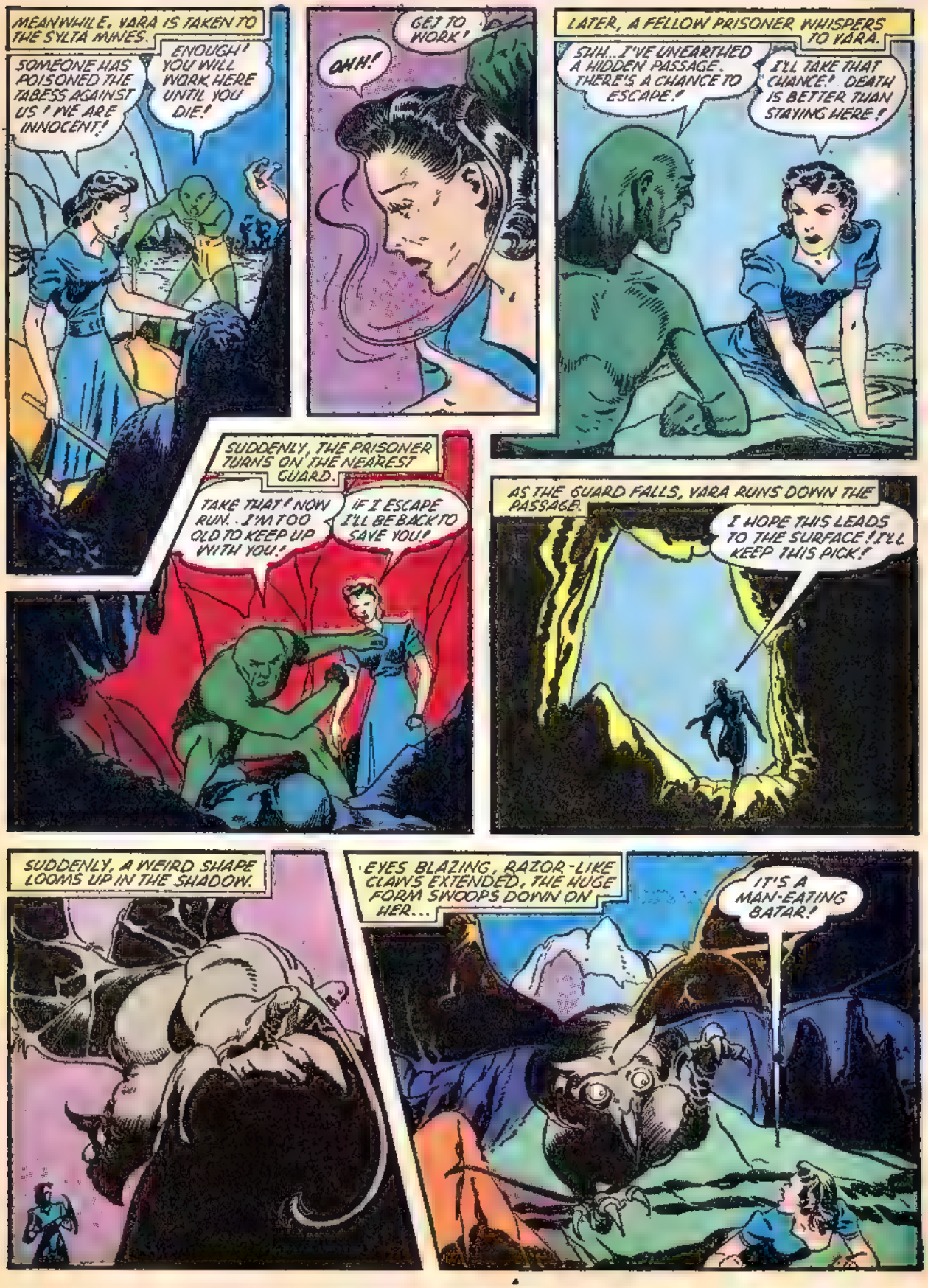
NOW TO THROW THE REPULSYOLT SWITCH! THIS LEAVES THE TAB-ESS IN MY POWER!

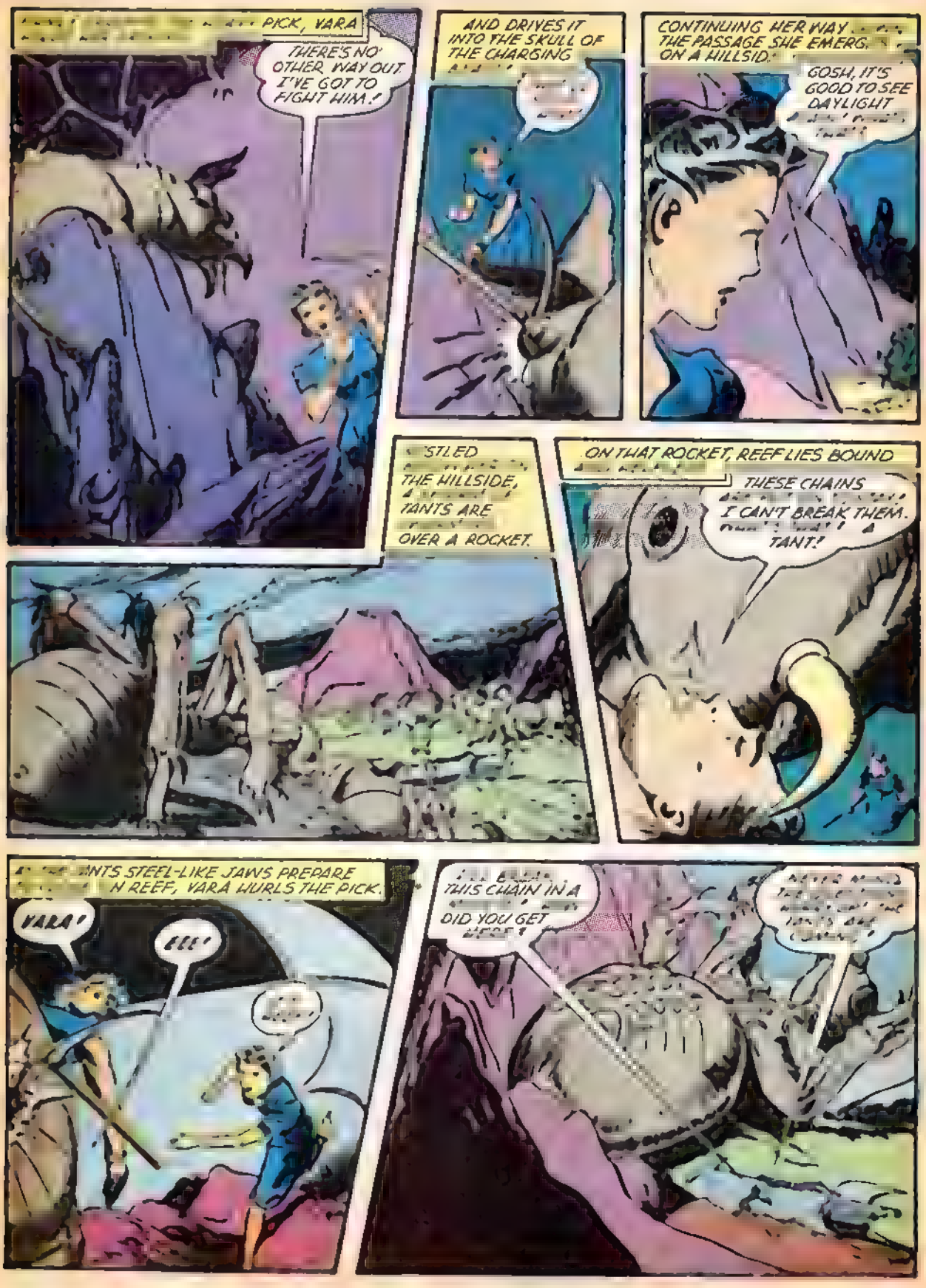
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND WHY SHE DID THIS TO US!.. WE WERE HER FRIENDS!

SUDDENLY, WITH A ROAR, THE ROCKET ZOOMS INTO SPACE

AND LANDS ON THE DIS-TANT HILL

ROUSED BY THE DISTURB-ANCE, HUGE TANTS POUR FROM THEIR HOLES!


MEANWHILE, VARA IS TAKEN TO THE SYLTA MINES.
SOMEONE HAS POISONED THE TABESS AGAINST US! WE ARE INNOCENT!
ENOUGH! YOU WILL WORK HERE UNTIL YOU DIE!
GET TO WORK!
OHH!
LATER, A FELLOW PRISONER WHISPERS TO VARA.
SHH...I'VE UNEARTHED A HIDDEN PASSAGE. THERE'S A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! DEATH IS BETTER THAN STAYING HERE!
SUDDENLY, THE PRISONER TURNS ON THE NEAREST GUARD.
TAKE THAT! NOW RUN. I'M TOO OLD TO KEEP UP WITH YOU!
IF I ESCAPE I'LL BE BACK TO SAVE YOU!
AS THE GUARD FALLS, VARA RUNS DOWN THE PASSAGE.
I HOPE THIS LEADS TO THE SURFACE! I'LL KEEP THIS PICK!
SUDDENLY, A WEIRD SHAPE LOOMS UP IN THE SHADOW.
EYES BLAZING, RAZOR-LIKE CLAWS EXTENDED, THE HUGE FORM SWOOPS DOWN ON HER...
IT'S A MAN-EATING BATAR!


PICK, VARA
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT I'VE GOT TO FIGHT HIM!
AND DRIVES IT INTO THE SKULL OF THE CHARGING
CONTINUING HER WAY THE PASSAGE SHE EMERG ON A HILLSID
GOSH, IT'S GOOD TO SEE DAYLIGHT
STLED THE HILLSIDE, TANTS ARE OVER A ROCKET.
ON THAT ROCKET, REEF LIES BOUND
THESE CHAINS I CAN'T BREAK THEM. TANT!
NTS STEEL-LIKE JAWS PREPARE N REEF, VARA HURLS THE PICK.
VARA!
THIS CHAIN IN A
DID YOU GET

MEANWHILE, IN THE HAG'S HOVEL.
WASEL, I MUST HAVE MORE OF THE POTION TO KEEP THE TABESS UNDER MY POWER!
HERE IT IS! I KNEW YOU WOULD BE BACK!.. WHERE IS THE GOLD?
I PAY TO YOU?...FOOL, TAKE THAT!...THE TABESS HAS PROMISED TO MARRY ME!... I WON'T NEED YOU AFTER TONIGHT!
I'LL BURN THE HOUSE WITH HER IN IT... SHE ALONE KNOWS OF MY PLANS!. TOMORROW I'LL BE THE NEW TAB OF XALAN!
FEW MINUTES LATER, CLUTCHING THE VIAL, THE BARDA LEAVES THE BLAZING BUILDING.
NOW TO RETURN TO THE ROOKA AND GIVE THIS TO THE TABESS!
MEANWHILE, REEF AND VARA FLEE BEFORE THE SWARM OF TANTS.
WE'VE LEFT THEM BEHIND! NOW TO RETURN TO THE ROOKA AND FIND OUT WHO POISONED THE TABESS AGAINST US!
WHOEVER IT IS, THINKS WE ARE DEAD!
LOOK!.. THAT HOUSE IS ON FIRE!
LISTEN!... SOMEONE'S IN IT!
HELP!
BURSTING THROUGH THE DOOR, A HORRIBLE SIGHT GREETS THEM.
WHAT!
HELP! I'M TIED TO THIS CHAIR!

I'LL GET YOU OUT!
HURRY! THE ROOF IS FALLING!
OUTSIDE THE HOVEL, WASEL BABBLES OF THE BARDA'S CRIME.
I SOLD HIM THE POTION WITH WHICH HE GAINED HIS POWER OVER THE TABESS!
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE DRUG WHEN SHE ORDERED ME SHOT TO THE TANTS!
TAKE MY STEEDS AND RIDE TO THE ROOKA! YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STOP THE WEDDING!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
LATER, WITH A CLATTER OF HOOFS THEY RIDE INTO THE ROOKA.
LOOK! THEY'RE PERFORMING THE CEREMONY!
I HOPE WE AREN'T TOO LATE!
VAULTING FROM HIS STEED, REEF LANDS ON THE BARDA. . . .
THIS IS GOING TO BE A PLEASURE!
THE EARTHMAN! OHHH!
SCRAMBLING TO HIS FEET, THE BARDA RUNS TO A SECRET DOOR.
THIS TIME YOU'VE WON, BUT XALAN HAS NOT SEEN THE LAST OF ME!
NEXT DAY, HAVING RECOVERED FROM THE DRUG, THE TABESS CONFRONTS REEF AND VARA.
MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE BARDA ESCAPED!
WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE YOU RECOVERED FROM THE DRUG!
XALAN HAS MUCH TO THANK YOU FOR!... COME WE WILL SIT IN THE GARDEN!
WE MUST SOON BE STARTING BACK TO CORAAM!
NOT UNTIL WE'VE KEPT THE PROMISE WE MADE TO XALAN AND ARE SURE THE TABESS IS SAFE!
THIS EARTHMAN... HE IS HANDSOME AND BRAVE!... PERHAPS HE SHOULD RULE AT MY SIDE!
STRANGE NEW ADVENTURES AWAIT REEF RYAN AND VARA IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!!

GALE ALLEN

AND HER GIRL SQUADRON

by Douglas McKee

IN THE UNKNOWN VASTNESS OF OUTER SPACE, GALE AND HER SQUADRON MEET INHUMAN HORRORS SUDDEN DEATH!

. . . . . .

ALL VENUS ATTENDS THE ANNUAL SERVICES AT THE TOMB OF KING ROGERT, DISCOVERER OF THE PLANET, HENCE "FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE!"

BEHOLD! HIS DIRECT DESCENDANT, GALE ALLEN, PLACES A WREATH UPON THE GOLDEN CASKET!

BUT IT'S EMPTY! KING ROGERT'S MUMMY HAS BEEN STOLEN!

WHO?

©G.M

INSTANTLY GALE ROUNDS UP HER SQUADRON

THE VILLAIN CAN'T BE VERY FAR..HOP INTO OUR ROCKET SHIP!!

WITH FURIOUS SPEED THEY SOAR INTO SPACE...

MEANWHILE, IN VENUSIAN WILDS, FAR FROM GALE'S CITY, STRANGE ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE IN A GLOOMY TEMPLE...

A-EEYAH!! TONIGHT! TONIGHT, O BULL GOD OF WAR, YOU GAIN REVENGE! TAKE THE MORTAL REMAINS OF THE HUMAN WHO FIRST DISTURBED YOUR REALM!

GALE CIRCLES HIGH OVER VENUSIAN MOUNTAINS.

THERE'S A SLED TRAIL GOING OUT OF OUR CITY.. AND IT LEADS INTO THE ENDLESS HILLS!

INTO THESE MYSTERIOUS HILLS, MEN HAVE GONE TO EXPLORE... NEVER TO RETURN!

WELL? YOU KNOW THE DANGER OF THE ENDLESS HILLS. ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK IT?

YES!

SO, CUTTING THE ROAR OF THE ROCKET MOTORS, THEY DESCEND TO THE FORBIDDING VALLEY..

EAGERLY THE GIRLS POUR OUT OF THE SHIP... SUDDENLY...

AMBUSH!

BEHIND THE ROCKS, GIRLS!! AND FIGHT BACK!

ARRR!!

DEATH TO THE HUMANS!

©GM

FROM EVERY AVAILABLE SHELTER, GALE'S SQUADRON POUR OUT VOLLEYS OF RAY FIRE . . .

WHO ARE THEY, GALE?

WE'LL HAVE TO RECHARGE OUR GUNS!

THOSE CREATURES ARE THE WORSHIPPERS OF THE BULL GOD OF HAR. THEY DWELL IN THE ENDLESS HILLS!

THE MONSTROUS FOE FIGHTS WITH ALL MANNER OF ANCIENT WEAPONS, WHICH THEY DRAG TO THE SCENE

LEADING THEM IS THE HIGH PRIEST OF HAR.

SURROUND THE HUMANS! WE OUTNUMBER THEM NOW AND CAN SUBDUE THEM EASILY!

WE COULD FIGHT ON, GIRLS, BUT IT'S USELESS! ALLOW YOURSELVES TO BE CAPTURED. ONCE INSIDE THEIR HIDDEN CITY WE CAN THINK OF A WAY OUT!

ROPED TOGETHER BY CLAMMY, EVIL-ODORED VINES, THE GIRLS FILE INTO DEEP GROTTOS THAT TUNNEL THROUGH THE HILLS...

© GM

SOON THEY COME OUT BEFORE THE ORNATE TEMPLE ..

THEIR CAPTORS LASH THEM FURTHER INTO THE VAST UNDER GROUND HALL, WHICH IS THE SACRED CHAMBER OF THE BULL GOD.

MY PEOPLE TAKE YOU AS SPOILS OF WAR! YOU ARE SLAVES!

YOU ARE THE HIGH PRIEST? THEN LISTEN TO REASON...

SILENCE! HUMAN SLAVES DO NOT SPEAK IN HAR! TOSS HER INSIDE THE HOLLOW BULL GOD!

HERE YOU STAY UNTIL WE FEED YOU TO THE BULL GOD'S FIRE!

AND EACH MEMBER OF HER SQUADRON BECOMES A SLAVE..

INSIDE THE HUGE METAL IDOL, GALE PACES ANXIOUSLY... SUDDENLY...

A GIRL'S VOICE!! SHE SPEAKS TO ME...

YOU ARE HONORED, SLAVE, FOR I, THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF HAR, SERVE YOU YOUR LAST MEAL!! THEN YOU DIE!

©GM

GALE ACCEPTS THE FOOD TRAY, AND THEN, SUDDENLY..

HERE!! TAKE IT BACK!

GOOD! THE METAL TRAY PLUS BOILING SOUP HAS HER OUT COLD!! AS OF NOW, I AM THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF HAR!

LEAVING THE IDOL, GALE RECEIVES THE HOMAGE OF THE WORSHIPPERS OF HAR, WHO SOLEMNLY BANG THEIR FOREHEADS ON THE FLOOR.

GUESS I'M TOO SACRED FOR THEM TO LOOK AT.. SO THEY CAN'T GUESS MY REAL IDENTITY!

MIGHT AS WELL PLAY THE WINNING HAND ALL THE WAY. I'LL MOUNT THE BULL THRONE..

IN A DISGUISED VOICE, SHE ISSUES AN ORDER..

BRING TO ME THREE CURSED VENUSIANS! I WOULD HAVE THEM KILL THEIR CAPTIVE LEADER!... AND CARRY KING ROGERT'S MUMMY CASE TO THE MOUNTAIN SIDE!

MYSTIFIED, BUT UNQUESTIONINGLY, THE HAR PEOPLE OBEY... AND WHEN THE THREE GIRLS PILE IN, THEY GUESS GALE'S PLANS...

WE'LL DO AS SHE SAYS..

THOSE STUPID FOOLS DO NOT GUESS AN ENEMY IS RULING THEM!

YOU.. SLAVES! IN THE BULL GOD IDOL YOU'LL FIND YOUR MISERABLE LEADER.. SEW HER INTO THIS BULLHIDE I GIVE YOU AND DRAG HER OUT!

©GM

SOON THE THREE HAUL OUT THE BULKY LEATHER SACK INSIDE THE PRISONER STRUGGLES VIOLENTLY. . .

NO MATTER . . NO ONE KNOWS THIS IS THE REAL PRIESTESS!

TOSS THE SACRIFICE INTO MY SACRED FIRE PIT!

THE BULL WORSHIPPERS SHOUT IN EXULTATION AS "GALE ALLEN" DIES

AND NOW KILL THE REST!

SUDDENLY GALE STRIPS OFF THE PRIESTESS' ROBE

FOOLED YOU, EH?

GRAB THEIR GUNS GIRLS!! BEFORE THEY COME OUT OF THE SHOCK!

WILDLY THE HAR PEOPLE START PURSUIT, BUT GALE LIGHTS A FUSE AT THE TUNNEL MOUTH...

LET THEM STAY SEALED IN THE ENDLESS HILLS!! WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR!

NOW BACK HOME, THANK GOODNESS!!

GALE, IT WAS WONDERFUL THE WAY YOU HAD THEM CARRY KING ROGERT'S MUMMY RIGHT TO THE SHIP!!

GALE BATTLES PLANISPHERE EVILS IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!

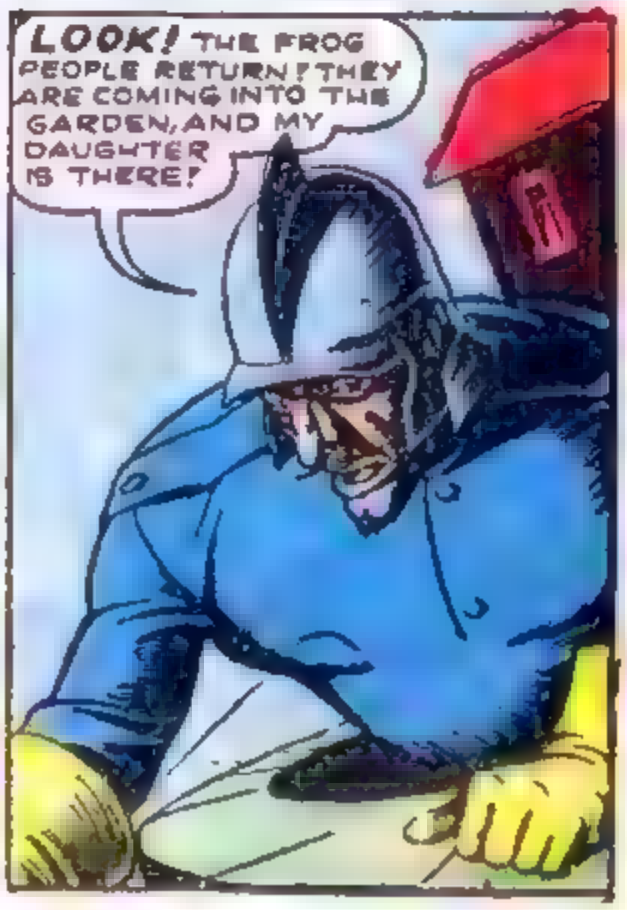
©GM

AURO Lord of Jupiter

By Dick Charles

What fantastic wizardry takes place in the bowels of the seething volcano? Whence come these frog-like men who would overrun the garden spot of the planet, Jupiter? Beware, **AURO**, mighty Lord of Jupiter, for swift death awaits those who seek the secret of the flaming mountains.

YES, MIGHTY AURO, ALL THIS WAS BUT A GREAT SWAMP INHABITED BY FROG PEOPLE, UNTIL I HAD IT DRAINED. NOW IT IS A FLOURISHING COLONY!



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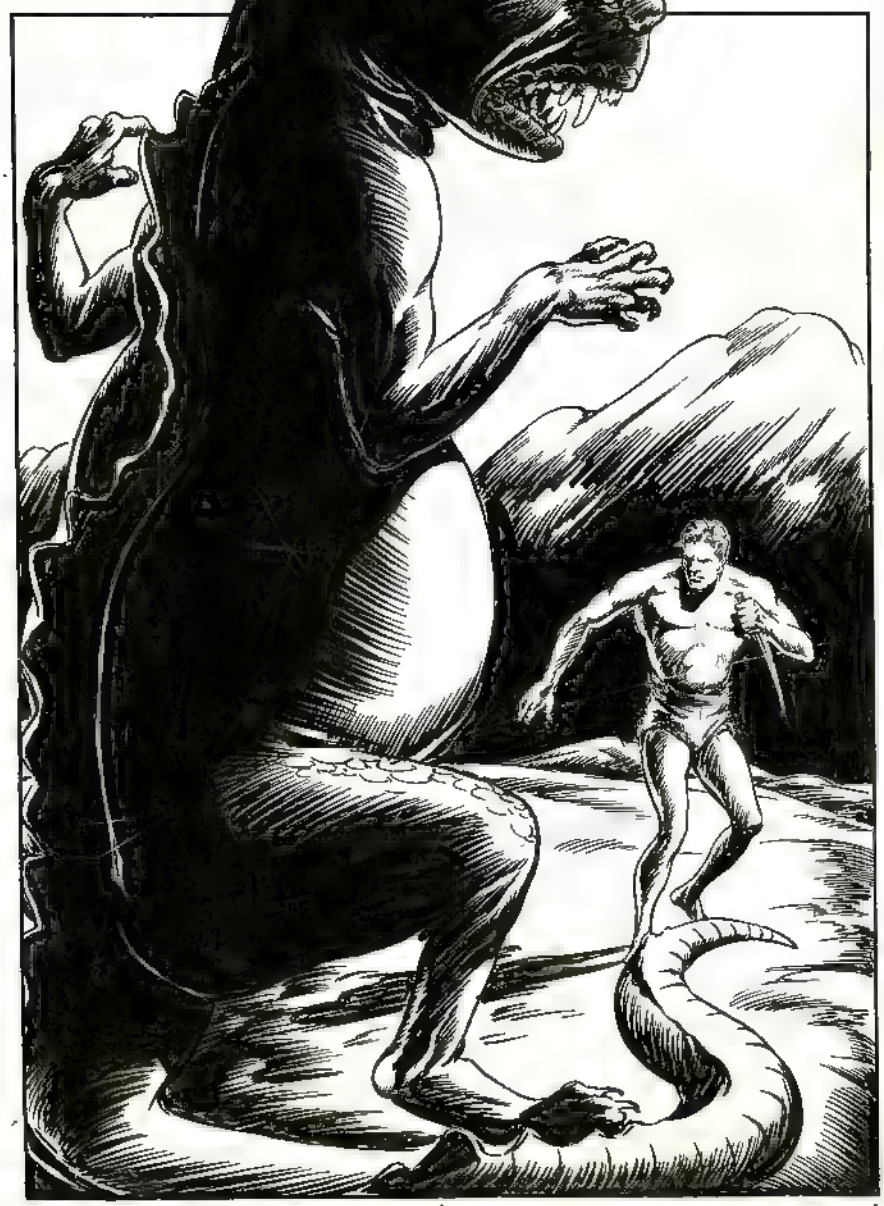
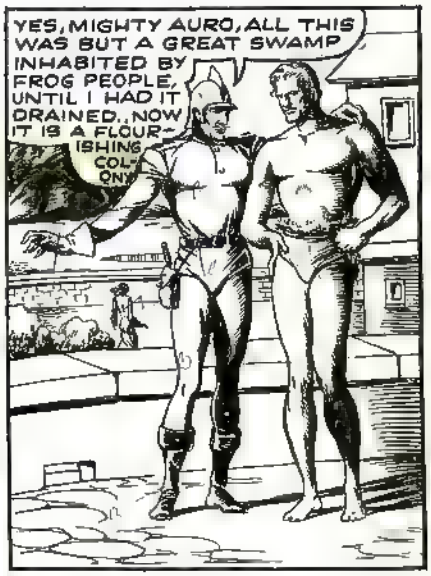
AURO Lord of Jupiter

By Dick Charles

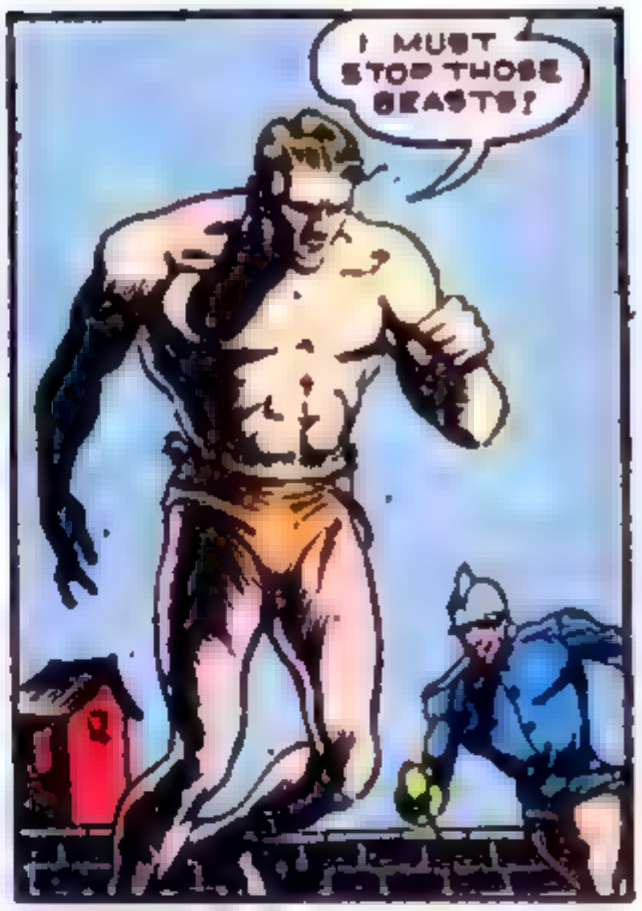
WHAT FANTASTIC WIZARDRY TAKES PLACE IN THE BOWELS OF THE SEETHING VOLCANO? WHENCE COME THESE FROG-LIKE MEN WHO WOULD OVERRUN THE GARDEN SPOT OF THE PLANET, JUPITER? BEWARE, **AURO**, MIGHTY LORD OF JUPITER, FOR SWIFT DEATH AWAITS THOSE WHO SEEK THE SECRET OF THE FLAMING MOUNTAINS.

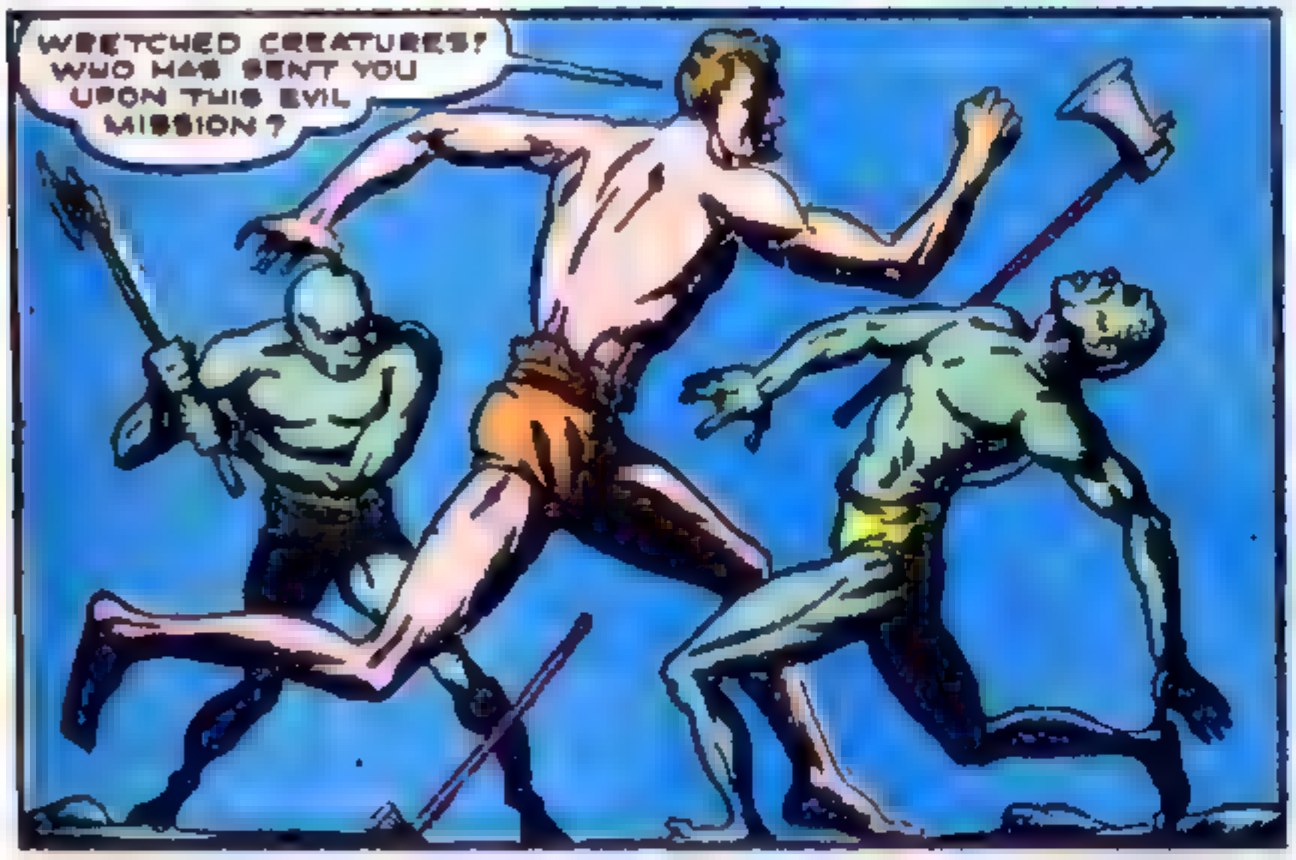



YES, MIGHTY AURO, ALL THIS WAS BUT A GREAT SWAMP INHABITED BY FROG PEOPLE, UNTIL I HAD IT DRAINED. NOW IT IS A FLOURISHING COLONY

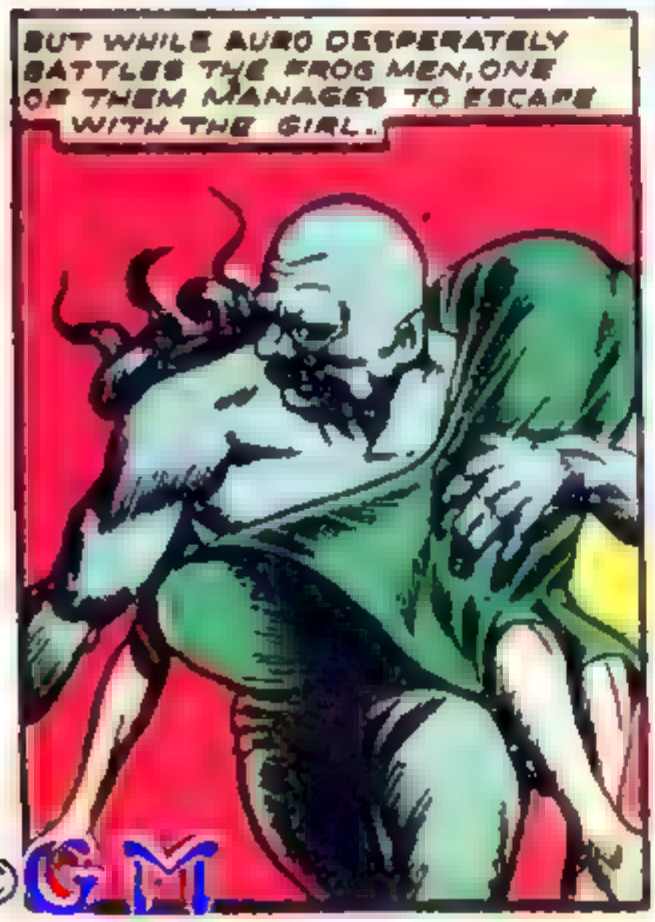
ARMED WITH AXES, THE FROG PEOPLE CLIMB OVER THE GARDEN WALL..

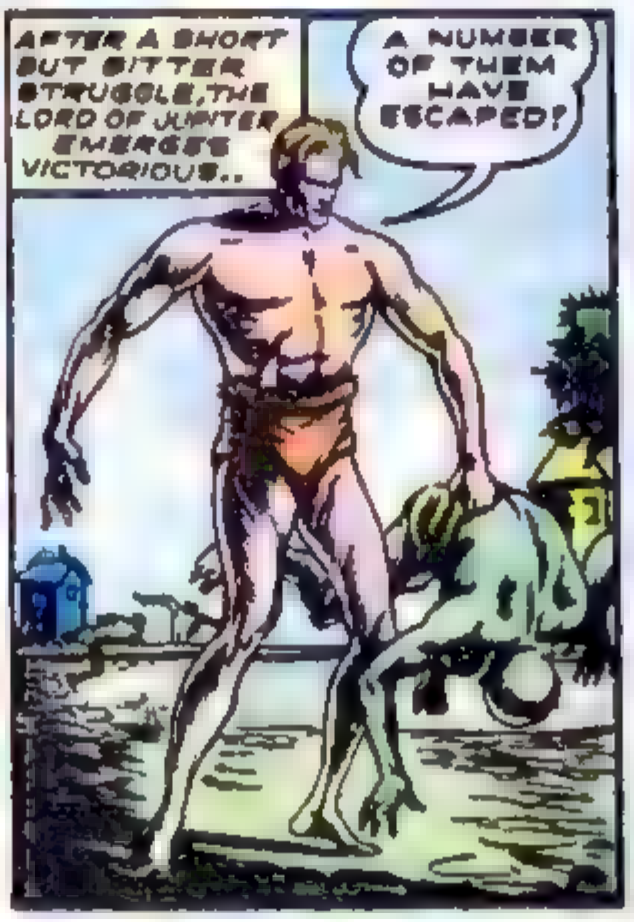
EEK! HELP! FATHER!


I MUST STOP THOSE BEASTS!


WRETCHED CREATURES! WHO HAS SENT YOU UPON THIS EVIL MISSION?

YOU ARE NOT QUICK ENOUGH, FROG MAN!


BUT WHILE AURO DESPERATELY BATTLES THE FROG MEN, ONE OF THEM MANAGES TO ESCAPE WITH THE GIRL..


AFTER A SHORT BUT BITTER STRUGGLE, THE LORD OF JUPITER EMERGES VICTORIOUS..
A NUMBER OF THEM HAVE ESCAPED!

AURO! THE FROG MEN HAVE KIDNAPPED MY DAUGHTER!

©GM

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EEK! HELP! FATHER!
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A NUMBER OF THEM HAVE ESCAPED!
AURO! THE FROG MEN HAVE KIDNAPPED MY DAUGHTER!

I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHERE THEY CAME FROM. I THOUGHT THEY HAD BEEN EXTERMINATED WHEN THE SWAMP WAS DRAINED?

THE BEAST DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY! AND HE CANNOT TALK!

CROAK CROAK

MAY GOOD FORTUNE GO WITH YOU, AURO!

I'LL KEEP THIS ROPE AROUND HIS NECK AND PERHAPS HE WILL LEAD ME TO HIS LAIR!

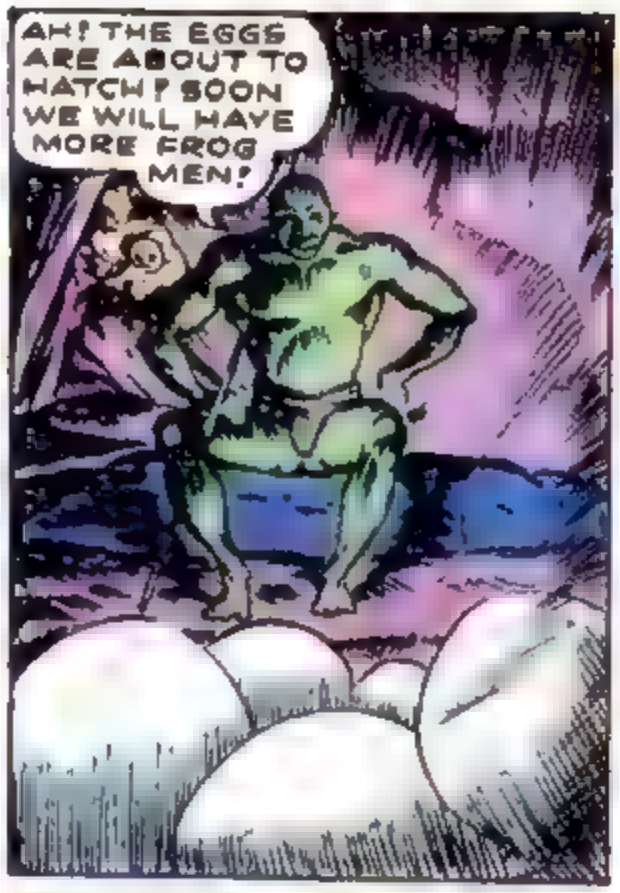
CROAK CROAK

AURO IS LED TO A VOLCANO-LIKE MOUNTAIN..

HE FOLLOWS THE FROG INTO A HUGE FISSURE IN THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

©GM

THOSE EGGS! AND THE FIRES! THIS LOOKS LIKE AN INCUBATOR!

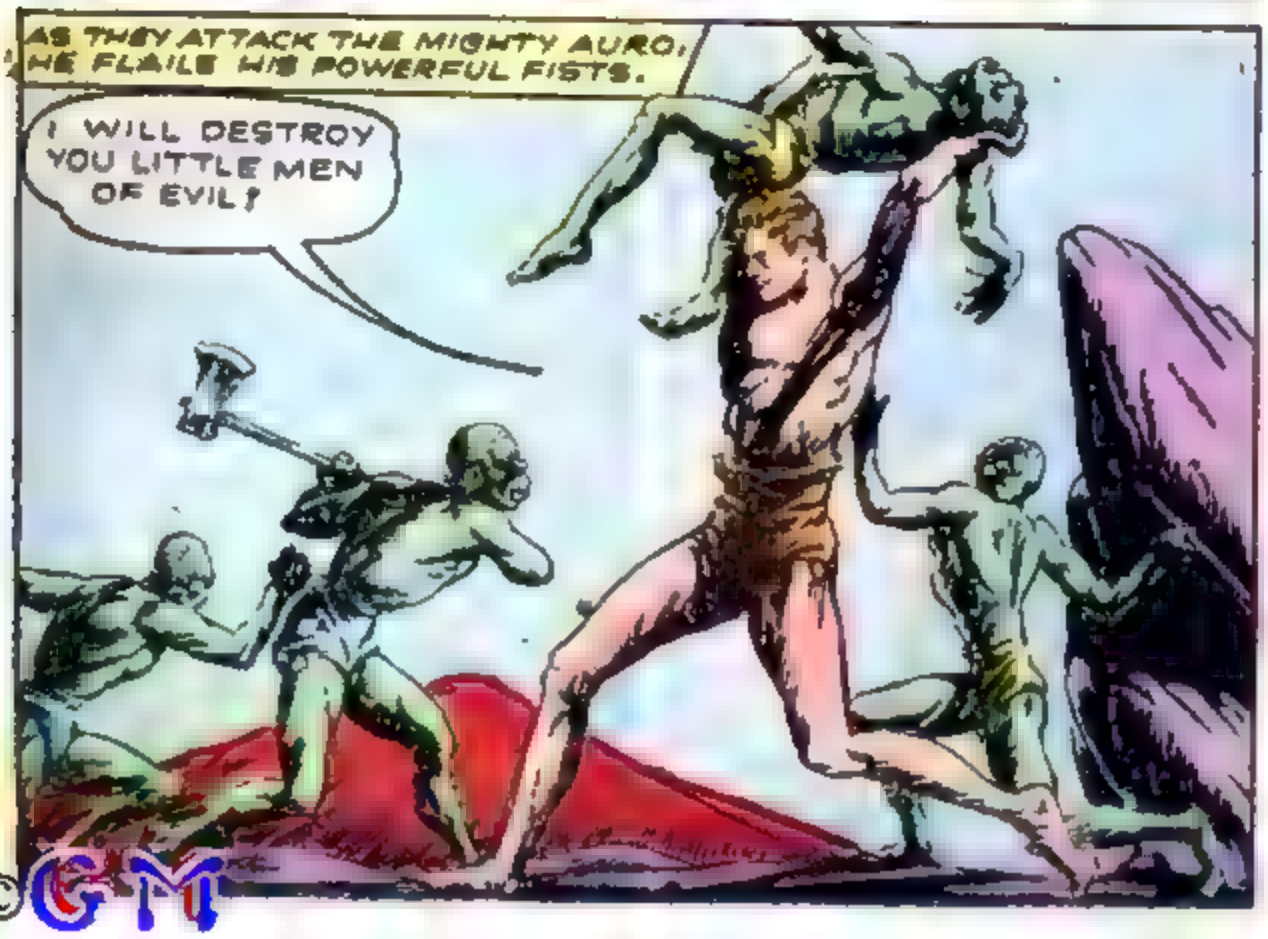

AH! THE EGGS ARE ABOUT TO HATCH! SOON WE WILL HAVE MORE FROG MEN!

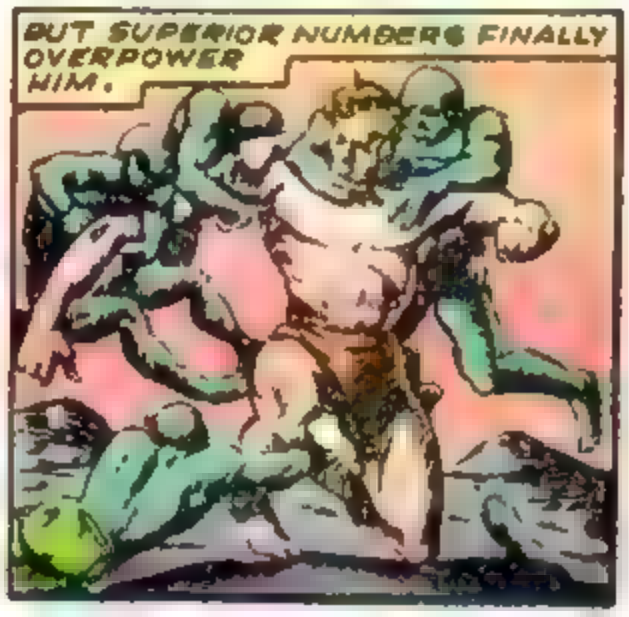
AS THE EGGS HATCH FROG MEN LEAP OUT.

WHAT STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN HERE! I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND NOW HOW THE FROG MEN CAME INTO EXISTENCE AGAIN!

SUDDENLY, TWO FROG GUARDS SEE AURO.
CROAK!

CROAK CROAK


AS THEY ATTACK THE MIGHTY AURO, HE FLAILS HIS POWERFUL FISTS.
I WILL DESTROY YOU LITTLE MEN OF EVIL!


BUT SUPERIOR NUMBERS FINALLY OVERPOWER HIM.

©GM

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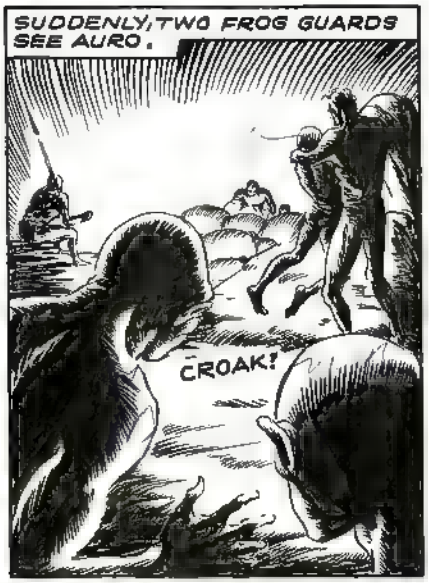
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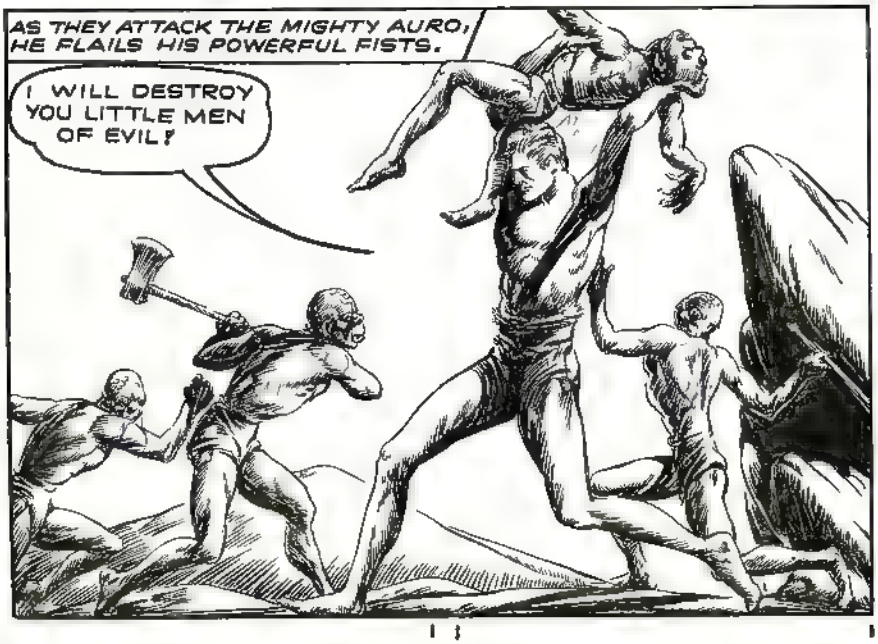
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I WILL DESTROY YOU LITTLE MEN OF EVIL!

BUT SUPERIOR NUMBERS FINALLY OVERPOWER HIM.

.AND FORCE HIM INTO ANOTHER CHAMBER.

SO! THE MIGHTY AURO VISITS ME! YOU SHALL NOT DEPART ALIVE! HA! HA! BUT SINCE YOU ARE TO DIE, I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU THE THINGS YOU CAME TO LEARN!

THE GIRL!

THE GIRL SHALL BE MY WIFE! THE DEVICE YOU SEE ON HER HEAD WILL MAKE HER FORGET HER HOME! AND NOW YOU WOULD PROBABLY LIKE TO KNOW HOW I RECREATED THE FROG PEOPLE..I FOUND SOME EGGS, BEFORE THE SWAMP WAS COMPLETELY DRAINED..AND USED A SPECIAL PROCESS TO ENLARGE THEM TO THEIR PRESENT SIZE. WHEN THEY ARE ALL HATCHED, I WILL RECAPTURE THE LAND WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO THE FROG PEOPLE!

AND NOW, THROW AURO TO MY TYRANNOSSO!

CROAK CROAK

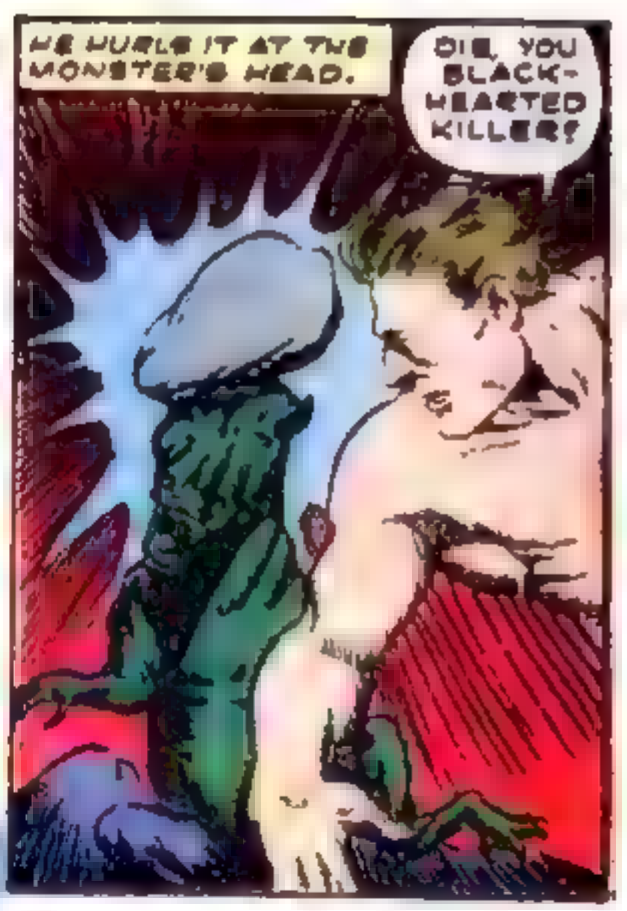
AURO IS HURLED INTO A DEEP PIT..

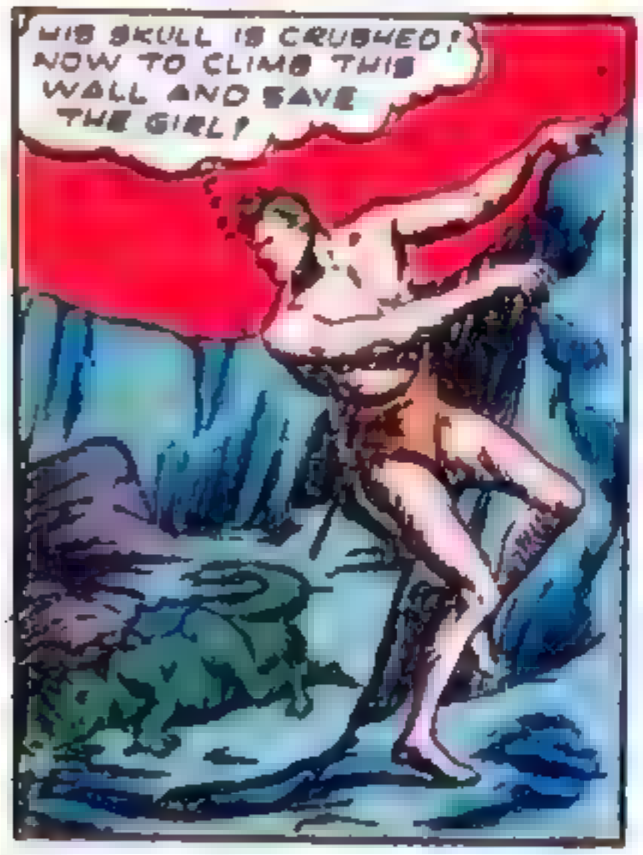
WHERE A GREAT MONSTER PREPARES TO DESTROY HIM!

COME, HUGE ONE.. AURO IS NOT AFRAID! HE WOULD DO BATTLE WITH YOU!

©GM

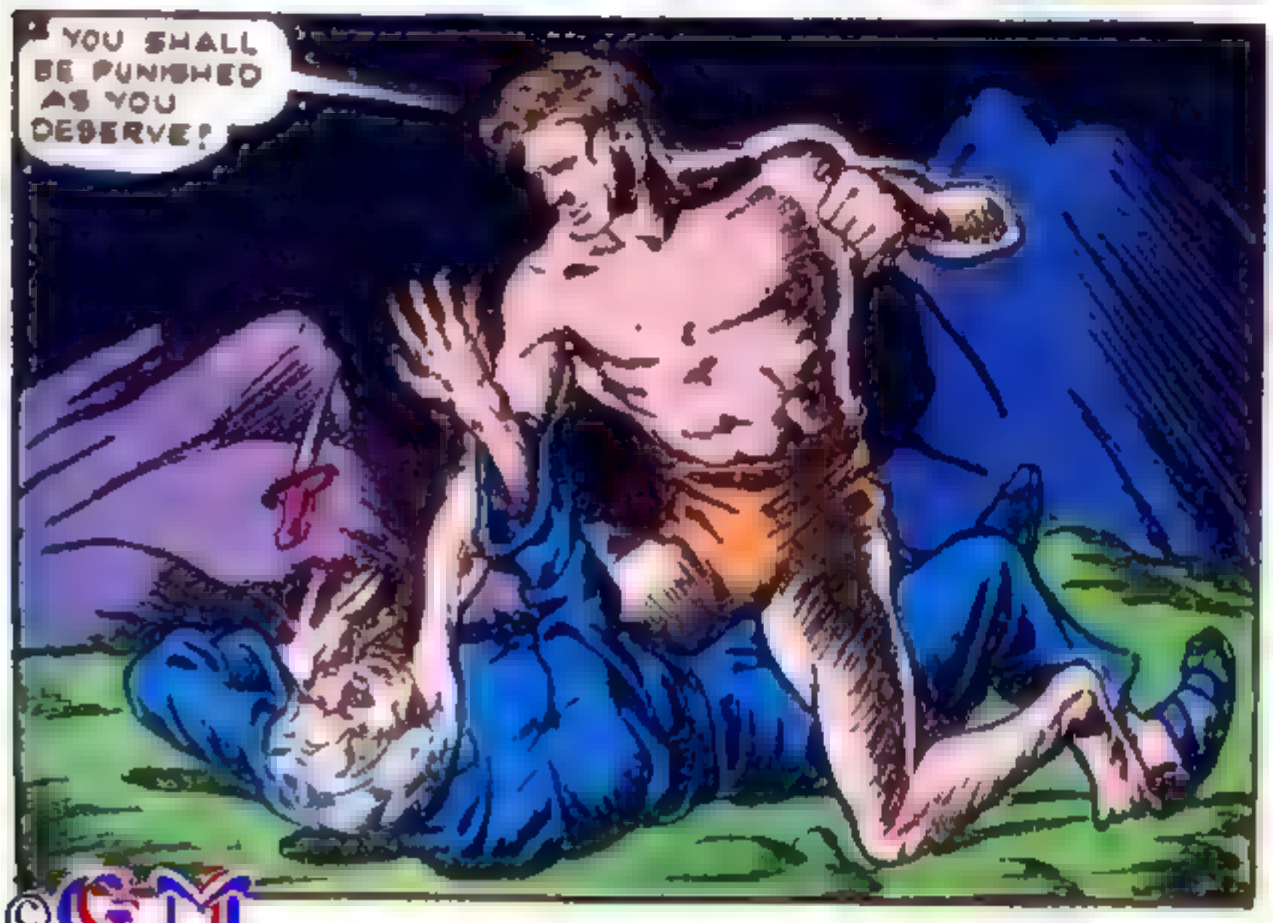
AS THE GIANT BEAST ADVANCES, AURO'S HANDS CLOSE ABOUT A BIG ROCK.


HE HURLS IT AT THE MONSTER'S HEAD.
DIE, YOU BLACK-HEARTED KILLER!


HIS SKULL IS CRUSHED! NOW TO CLIMB THIS WALL AND SAVE THE GIRL!

MY DEAR.. WHEN I TURN ON THIS CURRENT, YOU WILL FORGET THE PAST!
NO! NO!
HA! HA!

NAY, VILLAIN, YOU WILL WORK NO MORE EVIL!
AURO!


YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED AS YOU DESERVE!

AURO HURLS THE LEADER OF THE FROG MEN THROUGH A CREVASSE.

©GM

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YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED AS YOU DESERVE!
AURO HURLS THE LEADER OF THE FROG MEN THROUGH A CREVASSE.

OH, THANK YOU, AURO, FOR SAVING ME FROM THAT MADMAN!

AS AURO CLIMBS DOWN THE SIDE OF THE VOLCANO..

SEVERAL OF THE FROG MEN SEE HIM..

CROAK CROAK

BUT AS THEY CHARGE TO ATTACK, AURO UPROOTS A TREE TRUNK WHICH GROWS FROM THE SIDE OF THE VOLCANO.

AND FROM THE GAPING FISSURE FLOWS A STREAM OF HOT LAVA.. DESTROYING THE FROG MEN AS THE MOLTEN MASS OVERWHELMS THEM..

I MUST NOT LOSE MY BALANCE..OR WE TOO WILL DIE IN THE LAVA!

AURO FINALLY REACHES SAFETY.

THAT IS THE END OF THE VOLCANO AND THE FROG MEN!

AURO, YOU HAVE BROUGHT MY DAUGHTER BACK TO ME! (GULP!) YOU HAVE MY UNDYING GRATITUDE!

I WAS GLAD TO HELP!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS, AURO FINDS NEW ADVENTURES, AND A NEW MENACE ON THE STRANGE PLANET OF JUPITER.

©G-M

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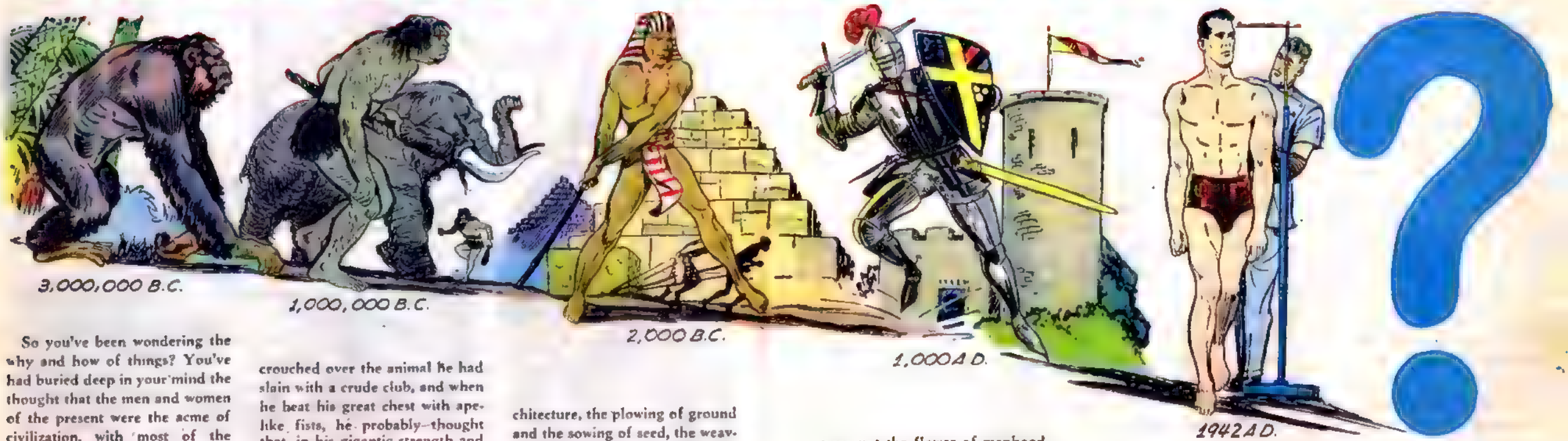
WATCH FOR AURO IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET
FINDS NEW ADVENTURES, AND A NEW MENACE ON THE STRANGE PLANET OF JUPITER.

THE ULTIMATE EARTHMAN

by Montague Truex, Ph. D.



So you've been wondering the why and how of things? You've had buried deep in your mind the thought that the men and women of the present were the acme of civilization, with most of the problems solved, with ills being wiped out from year to year, with a clearness of thinking and a maximum of strength being reached at last?

Well you're wrong!

A fallacy of modern thinking, whether of this or of any past generation, has been the tendency to minimize the changes that will come to a world that lies centuries ahead. Take yourself as a prime example. Honestly, when you think of the future earthman, don't you believe that he will be like you in all respects, the only difference perhaps lying in his having better health because of finer living conditions?

That's right—that's exactly the way you think. But you're wrong!

When the Neanderthal man crouched over the animal he had slain with a crude club, and when he beat his great chest with ape-like fists, he probably—thought that, in his gigantic strength and agility, that no creature could be greater. Then from the North came the Cro-Magnon, with his body less like an ape's, with his keener brain, and with his superior weapons, and the Neanderthal man was no more.

So it will be in many respects with humans and their characteristics as we know them today.

With the discovery of fire and the knowledge that clothing could be made from skins and barks and twisted threads, Man began to change. He learned that a cave could be made from branches of trees covered with grass and leaves. His hands became more skillful than mere paws that could tear and rend; they learned to manufacture the weapons and tools that made him higher than an animal. He learned crude architecture, the plowing of ground and the sowing of seed, the weaving of cloth, the building of homes, and learned social living.

And each period of evolution produced those who cried: "We are the pinnacle; none shall top our life or our achievements." But they were wrong . . .

The Egyptians built the pyramids as monuments to themselves and the dynasties they represented. They left monuments to prove that they were the acme of civilization. But now the rearing of a hundred story skyscraper, or the spanning of a mile-wide gorge, is a technically-simple engineering problem that the mightiest of the Pharaohs' engineers could not fathom.

They surely were not the pinnacle of evolution.

And the knights of old, despite their bravery and chivalry, were not the flower of manhood they thought themselves.

And neither were the soldiers that came after them, nor the rugged pioneers who dared the terrors of the far horizons. None are the pinnacle of evolution, none will be for milenniums to come.

And most definitely, we are not perfection.

But we would like to give you the consensus of scientific opinions, as gathered from scientific research, from text books, and from intimate talks with men who have made the study of evolution their life-work.

Contrary to popular opinion, Earthmen of the future centuries will not be physical giants. Most men of science are agreed that the acme, the pinnacle, of human size will average six feet in height for the male, and sixty-eight inches for women. Weight will increase in proportion to growth, with muscle tone stepped up proportionately to carry the weight with a lithe ease.

Such bodily characteristics as an appendix, wisdom teeth, hair and little toes will disappear through the generations. As did the tail, of which there is a rudimentary bone at the base of the spine. So will disappear other needless parts of the human body. Without use, such digits as the little and second toes will gradually grow smaller, finally remaining as only a vestigal remnant of the things they had been when man ran naked in the wilderness, using his toes with as great a facility as he did the fingers of his hands.

Through the passing ages, man has become more upright in posture, his skeleton growing more fragile and delicate than his predecessor's, his skull enlarging and shaping so that more and more the full capacity of the brain might be utilized. Because of his civilized habit of wearing shoes and clothes, body hair has almost completely disappeared, for the hair's original purpose was nothing more or less than protection against the elements.

Because of less severe living conditions, man's teeth gradually became less necessary, for the eating of cooked foods mitigated the needs of having heavily muscled

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jaws and great tearing or grinding teeth. According to scientific research, many people now go through life without having their wisdom teeth emerging from the gums. And in the future, it is scientifically probable that there will be a time when teeth will no longer be found in the mouths of humans.

Science has discovered through the past years, by studying histories of eating habits, that the human of today eats approximately one-half as much as his ancestors did. This, primarily, is due to his lack of muscular activity. And with countless inventions for better living being patented each year, activity will be confined almost entirely to sports, thus making eating habits even less than now. Too, with vitamins and energy tablets being manufactured in greater quantities year by year, is is a scientific surety that the stomach will reduce in size to the point that it will be only large enough to hold enough water for the maintenance of life.

With a regimented sports program, the men of the future will be of such physical specimens such as we find now only in the best of athletes. With a specially constructed, scientifically accurate diet, the future earthman will build his body until it is the perfect machine to meet every purpose and command of his brain.

And in his brainpower, the ultimate earthman will be a giant. It is a proven scientific fact that the average person now uses but forty per cent of his brain's capacity for power. Experiments with ESP, Extra Sensory Perception, have proven that within the brain lies a dormant power of thought transference that will, in the future earthman, make auditory speech archaic and needless.

It has only been in the past few years that the study of the mind and its problems has become a true science, with a yardstick of values, and a future of possibilities that stretches endlessly before the scientist, psychiatrist, psychologist and doctor. But with doors opening before the endless experimenting and prodding of the scientists the man of the future will be a person to whom telepathy will be too commonplace to give a second thought.

As an indication of the growth of man through the years, several examples may be used. First, the armor of the Knights of King Arthur, while men above average size in their day, were a full two inches shorter than the average man in this era. And as few years ago as 1917, the soldiers of that day as compared to those of this were an inch shorter, wore a hat half a size smaller, wore shoes a full size smaller, and wore uniforms two sizes smaller.

Of course the above is not a true indication of the proportionate growth of men, for the structure of the body permits only so much height and weight to be carried. Too, there are such things to be considered as the pull of gravity, the ability of the body to utilize food-energy, glandular activity, and the effects of cosmic rays on human growth. So in reality, the peak of growth has almost been reached.

But while physical growth is more or less reaching its perfection, the growth of the mind's appreciation will never cease its growing. As more leisure time is permitted because of labor-saving inventions, then literature and painting and music will truly come into their own. They will be appreciated for the thoughts motivating them, and will not be read or heard or seen for only a slight transitory moment. In an aesthetic sense, all earthmen will know and appreciate the beauty of the life that surges about them.

Thus, in the final analysis, we find that the future earthman, the ultimate earthman, will be a strange admixture of the poet and the athlete. Physically perfect, with a larger head, with only vestigal remnants of such things as toes, teeth, and appendix, with a mind that works with the speed and magic of the radio, with the ability to appreciate beauty in the true sense of the word, the Ultimate Earthman will be a man to whom the far horizons of the Solar System are but stepping stones to adventure far beyond.

Another amazing FUTURE-FACT science feature will appear in the next issue of PLANET COMICS

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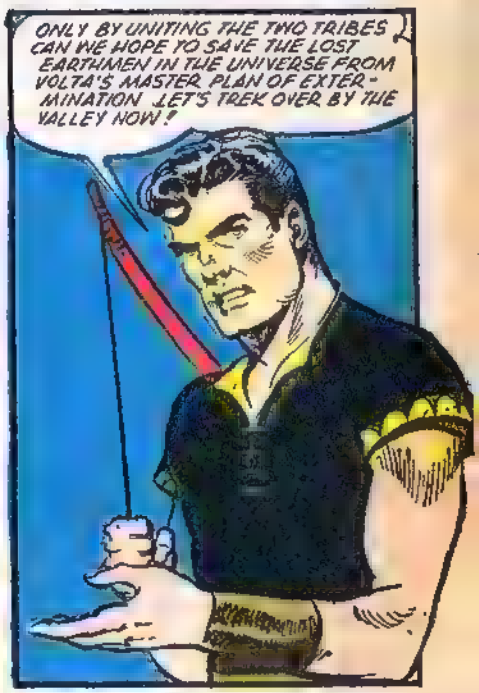
THE Lost WORLD

by THORNECLIFFE HERRICK

EARTH WAS A SHAMBLES WHEN HUNT BOWMAN, THE LAST HUMAN TO SURVIVE THE SLAUGHTER-MAD WARRIORS FROM VOLTA WAS CAPTURED BY IQOR. BUT THE EARTHMAN FORCED IQOR AND HIS CREW TO FLEE INTO SPACE WHILE HUNT CRASHED IQOR'S SHIP ON THE LOST WORLD... ON THIS LONELY, UNCHARTED PLANET, LYSSA REIGNS OVER A WILD MOB OF CAVEMEN, UNDER CONSTANT PERIL OF SPACE RAIDERS AND THE DREADED SPIRAX THAT ROAM THE LOST WORLD!

EVERY DAY HUNT BOWMAN LEARNS MORE ABOUT THE LOST WORLD'S MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA
THE RED RAYS? OH, THEY'RE FROM THE VALLEY OF FIRE THAT DIVIDES MY TRIBE FROM THE EURASIANS
HUMANS, LIKE OURSELVES? THEN WE MUST FIND A WAY TO CROSS THAT VALLEY.


ONLY BY UNITING THE TWO TRIBES CAN WE HOPE TO SAVE THE LOST EARTHMEN IN THE UNIVERSE FROM VOLTA'S MASTER PLAN OF EXTERMINATION. LET'S TREK OVER BY THE VALLEY NOW!

TRUDGING ABOUT THIRTY MILES ACROSS MARSHY WASTELANDS THEY REACH A SCORCHED PLAIN.
THIS IS AS CLOSE AS WE CAN GET. WHEW! IT'S BLISTERING.
YES, AND THAT RING OF FLAME BELTS THE WORLD. THIS IS A NEW PLANET WHICH HAS NOT YET COOLED OFF.

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BUT WHILE HUNT AND LYSSA SPECULATE ON A MEANS TO CROSS THE VALLEY, INHUMAN BRAINS CONCENTRATE ON THEM BEHIND THE RAY-PROOF DEFENSES OF VOLTA, THE GIBRALTAR PLANET OF THE CONQUERORS.

IN THE DEPTHS OF THIS TUNGSTEN-STEEL BASTION YAK BAR THE WARLORD SHRIEKS AT HIS MOST RUTHLESS RAID CAPTAIN.

WORM! IDIOT! SO YOU DESERTED YOUR SHIP! TO THE LAST MAN ON EARTH!

HE HAD THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN! I COULDN'T HOLD HIM! BUT NOT KNOWING HOW TO CONTROL MY SHIP, HE MUST HAVE CRASHED!

BAH! TAKE A SQUAD OF FOUR MOST CRUEL KILLERS AND SCOUR THE UNIVERSE FOR THAT WRECK— AND BRING BACK PROOF! IF THE EARTHMAN AND THAT QUEEN SURVIVED, I WANT THEIR BODIES, ALIVE OR DEAD!

THROUGH A MAZE OF TUNNELS IQOR REACHES A DOPE DEN FREQUENTED BY THE MOST VICIOUS AND DEPRAVED KILLERS ON VOLTA.

SNAGG! NUPA! LIZTO! SNAP UP, YOU DRUG-SOAKED SCUM! I'M TAKING YOU ON A MANHUNT!

OUTSIDE ON A HIGH TERRACE IQOR'S NEW CRUISER AWAITS THE RUTHLESS RAIDERS.

GET ABOARD, QUICK! WE'RE HEADING FOR THE LOST WORLD!

WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR THE SHIP ZOOMS INTO SPACE

A QUARTER-MOON LATER ON THE LOST WORLD.. QUEEN LYSSA IS STARTLED BY A STRANGE LIGHT IN THE HEAVENS.
NO, HUNT! THAT'S NOT A METEOR! LOOK-IT'S CLOSER NOW!
YES... IT'S A SHIP! WHO COULD IT BE BUT IQOR, RETURNING FOR REVENGE! AND WE HAVE ONLY PRIMITIVE WEAPONS!
BUT BY FLASHING A GREEN LIGHT WE CAN ATTRACT THE SPIRAX HERD, THESE DRAGONS ARE IMMUNE TO THE VOLTA'S ELECTRO-RAY GUNS, AND THEY'LL DEVOUR ANY WHO VENTURE FROM THE SHIP!
AS HUNT AND LYSSA CROSS THE MOUND, A RENEGADE CAVE-MAN LEADS A REBEL MOB BEHIND THEM
SHH! IF WE TURN 'EM OVER TO IQOR, HE WON'T BOTHER US AGAIN!
ARMED WITH SPIKED CLUBS, THE REBELS SWOOP UPON THE COUPLE..
HUNT! LOOK OUT! IT'S THAT ROGUE, BASIL!
BASIL SWINGS A VICIOUS BLOW, BUT HUNT WHIRLS ASIDE, AND THE WEIGHT OF THE CLUB PULLS BASIL OFF BALANCE

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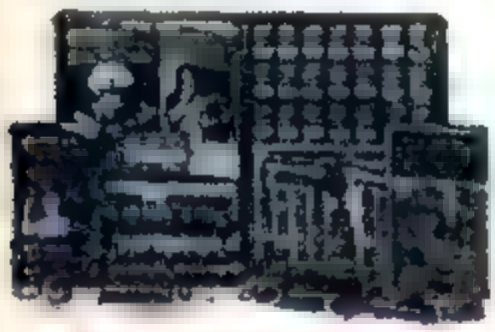

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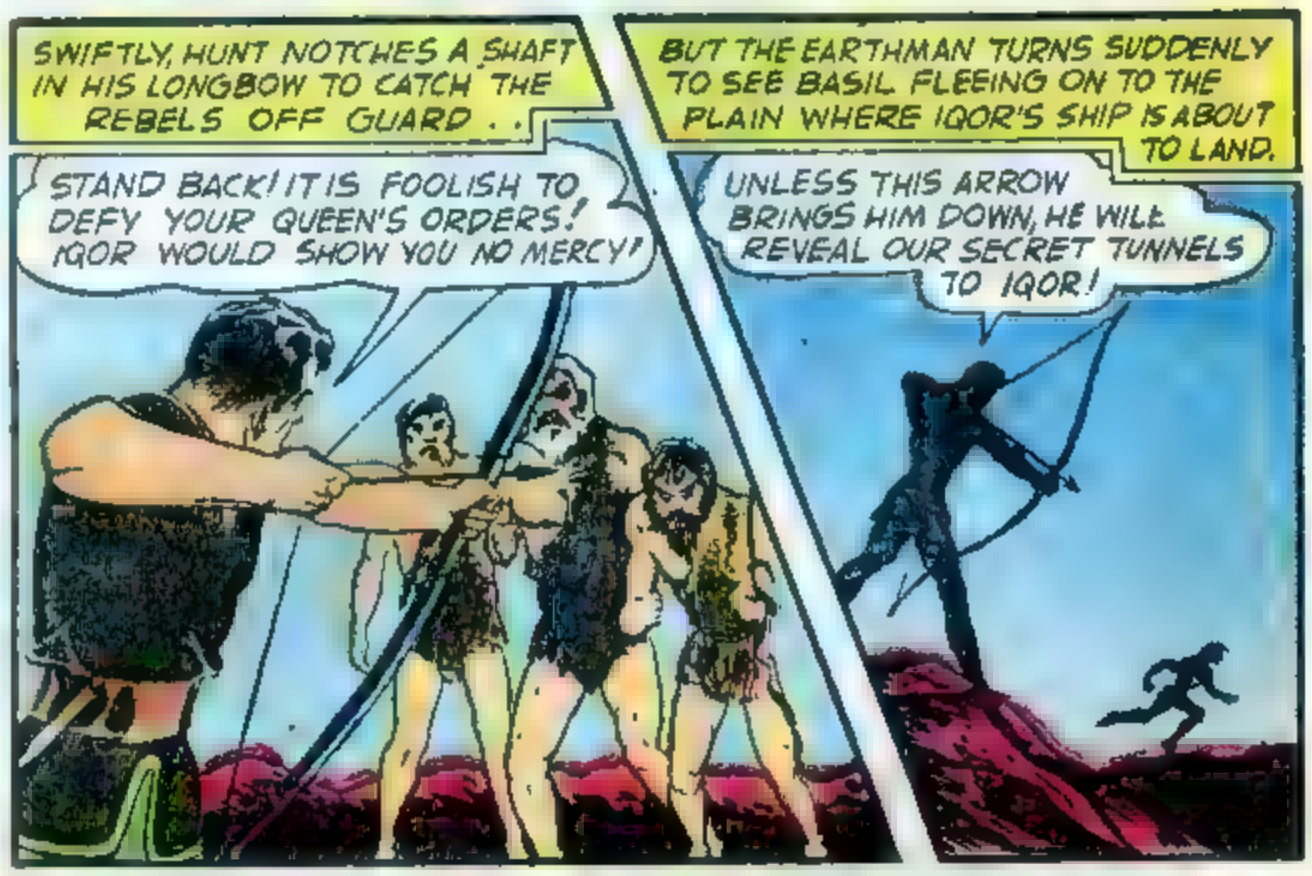
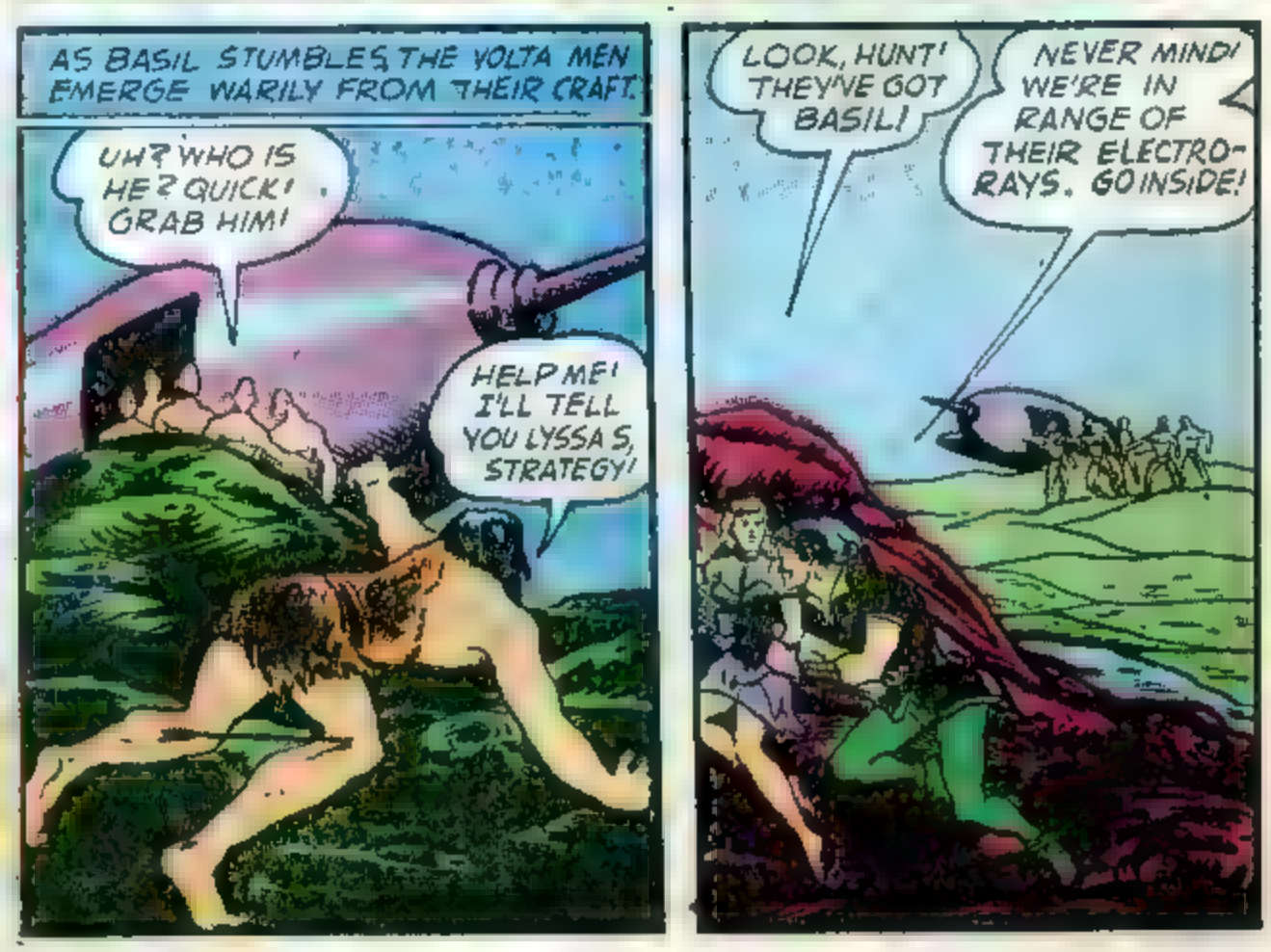

SWIFTLY, HUNT NOTCHES A SHAFT IN HIS LONGBOW TO CATCH THE REBELS OFF GUARD . .
BUT THE EARTHMAN TURNS SUDDENLY TO SEE BASIL FLEEING ON TO THE PLAIN WHERE IQOR'S SHIP IS ABOUT TO LAND.
STAND BACK! IT IS FOOLISH TO DEFY YOUR QUEEN'S ORDERS! IQOR WOULD SHOW YOU NO MERCY!
UNLESS THIS ARROW BRINGS HIM DOWN, HE WILL REVEAL OUR SECRET TUNNELS TO IQOR!


AS BASIL STUMBLES, THE VOLTA MEN EMERGE WARILY FROM THEIR CRAFT.
UH? WHO IS HE? QUICK! GRAB HIM!
HELP ME! I'LL TELL YOU LYSSA'S STRATEGY!
LOOK, HUNT! THEY'VE GOT BASIL!
NEVER MIND! WE'RE IN RANGE OF THEIR ELECTRO-RAYS. GO INSIDE!

THROUGH THE HEAVY BULKHEAD THEY REACH A TUNNEL BURROWING DEEP INTO THE MOUND.

NO, THERE! CEDRIC! IOOR COMES! BRING THE GREEN LIGHTS!

BUT ALREADY I WENT FOR THEM. THEY ARE GONE!

MORE OF BASIL'S WORK! ONLY ONE CHANCE REMAINS I'LL CREEP UP ON THE SPIRAXES UNDER A MAMMOTH SNAIL SHELL AND STAMPEDE THEM TOWARD IQOR'S SLIP!

NO, HUNT! YOU CAN'T RISK THAT! YOU'LL BE KILLED!

BUT IN SPITE OF LYSSA'S WARNING HUNT EMERGES SWIFTLY

THERE'S A SHELL. NOW, IF I CAN DUCK UNDER IT BEFORE THEY SPOT ME. .

BOWMAN MOVES WITH SUCH SPEED AND SILENCE THAT EVEN THE WILY DRAGONS ARE UNAWARE OF HIS TRICK.

A TINY HOLE TO SEE THROUGH! I'M IN LUCK!

CIRCLING AROUND THE HERD, HUNT RAISES HIS DISGUISE TO NOTCH A SHAFT IN HIS POWERFUL WEAPON.

THE BRUTES STILL THINK I'M A SNAIL. BUT WAIT TILL I HIT THAT BIG FELLOW!

A WEIRD, HISSING SCREAM PIERCES THE STILL AIR AS HUNT'S ARROW SLASHES FATALLY THROUGH THE MONSTER'S VITAL SPOT

THEY'RE WHEELING AROUND IF THEY RUSH ME, I HAVEN'T ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION!

ANNOYED BY THE FATE OF THE HEAD LEADER THE OTHER SPIDERS SWARM AT THE MAIN OPENING

IN THE DISTANCE, HUNT STARES HORRIFIED AS LYSSA EMERGES FROM THE BULK-HEAD

HURL YOUR CLUBS AT THE BEASTS! HEAD THEM OFF TOWARD IOOR'S SHIP!

BUT THE NEXT INSTANT A FEROCIOUS BELLOW CHARGES HER

HUNT'S VIEW IS CUT OFF FOR SEVERAL SECONDS AS HE RACES ACROSS A GULLY.

IF THE SPIDER D.DN'T GET HER, IOOR'S SQUAD WILL!

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER SPIDERS IOOR'S CREW HEADING BACK TO THEIR SHIP

LYSSA'S GONE! THEY'VE ALREADY THROWN HER ABOARD!

A HUNDRED YARDS IN SEVEN SECONDS FLAT, AND THE AVENGING HUMAN IS STRIPPING THE SPACE SHIP'S HATCH FROM ITS TUNGSTEN STEEL HINGES.

SCRAWNY SCUM OF THE UNIVERSE! I'LL CRUSH EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODIES IF YOU'VE HURT LYSSA!

THE EARTHMAN! KILL HIM!

MEANWHILE, LYSSA CRAWLS FROM SHELTER BESIDE A SPIRAX KILLED BY HER WARRIOR

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HUNT SMASHED ABOARD IQOR'S SHIP.. UNLESS HE THOUGHT THEY'D CAPTURED ME.

HO, THERE, FELLOWS! THE HERD HAS SURROUNDED IQOR'S SHIP AND HUNT IS INSIDE. IS YOUR COURAGE HIGH?

ARMED ONLY WITH PRIMITIVE CLUBS, THEY SURGE FORTH TO ATTACK THE FIERCE REPTILES!

AYE, LYSSA! WE DESPISE FEAR!

BOLDLY THE CAVEMEN DEFY A SPIRAX'S FURIOUS CHARGE

SPAWN OF SATAN'S STABLE!

BUT OTHER WARRIORS DIE IN HORRIBLE AGONY AS THE MONSTERS ARE MADDENED BY BLOOD

GREAT COMETS! THIS ONE'S GOT ME CORNERED!

AT THIS INSTANT ABOARD THE CRUISER HUNT AWAITS HIS FINAL MATCH

I'VE BEATEN DOWN HIS CREW. BUT WHERE'S IQOR? AH FOOTSTEPS!

I'LL BLAST THAT EARTH-MAN TO NEPTUNE AND BACK!

WITH THE SMASHING POWER OF A RAY BOLT, HUNT'S FIST EXPLODES ON IQOR'S JAW

MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME, EH, STUPID?

OUT THE HATCH WITH YOU! UH? HEY! A SPIRAX... POUNCING ON LYSSA!

NOTCHING AN ARROW IN HIS LONG BOW AS HE LEAPS OVER IQOR, HUNT SENDS THE SHAFT LIKE A BULLET INTO THE REPTILIAN BEAST.

WHEW! NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!

THANKS SO MUCH, HUNT. WE ALMOST HAD ME MY MEN HAVE DRIVEN OFF THE OTHERS BUT DID YOU ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF IQOR'S SQUAD?

YES. ONLY I FEAR THAT OTHER SHIPS WILL SEARCH FOR THEM.

NO. STEP ABOARD. IQOR ONCE BOASTED HE ALONE COULD FIND THIS LOST WORLD.

ON DISTANT VOLTA, A FEW MOMENTS LATER, IGOR'S CHIEF, YAKBAR, RECEIVES A CALL ON HIS COSMIC RAY-DIO..

THE IDIOT.

IQOR CALLING! EMERGENCY! SHIP STRUCK BY METEOR OUT OF CONTROL.. CRASH!

THAT OUGHT TO SOUND REAL CONVINCING TO IQOR'S HOME STATION!

YES, BUT FOR ALL THIS TROUBLE WHAT HAVE WE GAINED?

HOW HAVE WE BENEFITED THE LAST OF THE HUMAN RACE ON THIS LONELY PLANET?

WHY, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN OUR PLAN, HUNT? NOW WE HAVE A SPACE SHIP TO REACH THE LOST TRIBE ACROSS THE VALLEY OF FIRE.

WEIRD ADVENTURES AWAIT HUNT BOWMAN AND QUEEN LYSSA ON THE LOST WORLD IN THE NEXT **PLANET COMICS!**

NORGE BENSON

by OLAF BJORN

SLUG
NORGE FROSTING AND JOLIE RETURN TO PLUTO AFTER THEIR ADVENTURES IN THE PLANISPHERE.
THAT MUST BE THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE I WIRED AHEAD.
BUT NORGE, THEY LOOK LIKE A PACK OF SILLY STUFFED BIRDS TO ME!
DON'T LET THEM HEAR YOU, JOLIE! PENGUINS WERE THE FIRST INHABITANTS OF PLUTO, AND THEY ARE VERY PROUD!
AWK!
SQUAWK!

BELOW, THE PLUTONIANS GLARE HOSTILELY AT NORGE'S ROCKET SHIP

NORGE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TRYIN' TO LAND...IT'S SIMPLE!

HMPH! FIRST HE DITCHES US, AND NOW HE THINKS HE CAN COME HOME JUST LIKE THAT! WE'LL SHOW HIM A THING OR FIVE OR SIX!

ULP G-GO BACK AND F-FIND MY S-STOMACH, P-P-PLEASE. I LOST IT

AWK! OUTTA THE WAY!

BUT WHEN JOLIE HOPS OUT, THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE OOHS AND AHS.. IGNORING NORGE COMPLETELY

HELLO, EVERYBODY!

DEE LIGHTED!

WELL WHAT THE? THEY DON'T KNOW I'M HERE AT ALL.

JEANIE

SIMPLY CHAWMED!

GENTLEMEN I'M SO FLATTERED BY YOUR WELCOME!

THEY'RE TAKING HER TO A ROYAL BANQUET. DON'T EVEN THANK US FOR BRINGING HER!

HMMPH! IGNORE 'EM. SA-AY LOOKIT THAT FUNNY BAG ON THE STEPS NOISY TOO!

HEARTBREAKING SOBS COME FROM A DEJECTED BROWN BUNDLE

NO! IT C-CAN'T BE! BUT IT IS! HATRACK!

SNIFF SNOB SNIFF!

I'M AN OUTC-CAST T-TOO. SNIFF! THEY THINK I D-DESERTED P-PLUTO OH WOE! OH MISERY! I'M S SO S SORRY F-FOR ME!

M-ME TOO! I AIN'T HAD A D-DECENT M-MEAL IN TWO HOURS!

CHEER UP! AT LEAST WE THREE ARE TOGETHER. LISTEN! I'VE AN IDEA... BUZZ...BUZZ...

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LAT NIGHT, THREE SHADOWY FIGURES STEAL INTO THE HALL OF EXTINCT DODOS, PLUTONIAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL (?) HISTORY...

WHEW! THESE DODOS DO EXTINCT, DON'T THEY, FROSTING?

I'LL SAY! WE NEED GAS MASKS SUH! I HOPE YOUR IDEA WORKS, NORGE!

NO NOISE! WE'LL ALL BE HEROES. SAVE PLUTO FROM SOME HORRIBLE SOMETHING AND SWH!

IN THE DIM LIGHT, NORGE STOPS TO CONSULT A FAT BOOK!

I HOPE THE LIBRARY DOESN'T MISS THIS IT SAYS ICHTHY-SAURUS TYRANNOSAURUS GIGANTICUS HAS BEEN EXTINCT FOR TEN MILLION YEARS!

DOWN THERE! THAT MUST BE ICHY-ITCHY WHATEVER IT IS!

THE THREE MUSEUM GHOULS PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS LEGAL?

SHH...!

DOPE! THERE AIN'T NO LAW AGAINST "BORROWING" A DODO!

ALONE IN ITS MAGNIFICENCE, MAJESTICALLY COVERING HALF A BLOCK STANDS ICHTHYSAURUS TYRANNOSAURUS GIGANTICUS NORGE, FROSTING AND HATRACK OPEN THEIR MOUTHS IN AWE WHEN SUDDENLY ICHTHY ETC OPENS HIS TOO!

HOO!

HUH!

D-DON'T D-DARE T-T-TELL M-M-M-ME T-THAT D-D-DODO T-TALKED!

THIS IS MERELY FROSTING, WITH HATRACK HIDING BEHIND HIM THEY HAD DISTURBED A HOOT OWL [illegible] ICHTHY'S RIBS!

FINALLY NORGE SATISFIES HIS FRIENDS THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF AND THEY GET TO WORK...

AND SOON THEY LEAVE THE MUSEUM, STAGGERING UNDER BADLY CAMOUFLAGED BUNDLES OF BONES

NOW WHAT? D'WE BARBECUE THESE? OR SOMEPIN?

I DUNNO! I WONDER WHAT NORGE SEES IN THESE S-PARE RIBS THAT'S WORTH PICKIN'?

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CAUTIOUSLY THEY GO TO THE FRONT LAWN OF THE ROYAL IOLOGAN HOTEL, WHERE JOLIE OCCUPIES THE ROYAL SUITE . . .

THERE! FIT THE BONES TOGETHER. PROP UP THE HEAD, FROSTING!

HOW D' YOU TELL WHICH IS HEAD AND WHICH IS TAIL?

OKAY, HATRACK, USE SNOW TO COVER THE SKELETON. FROSTING SPRAY THE PAINT EVEN!

MEANWHILE, JOLIE RISES TO ANOTHER DAY. . .

HO HUM!! YAWN! GUESS I'LL DO SOME SETTING UP EXERCISES.. MUST OPEN THE WINDOW..

OOOH!! WHAT'S THAT?

EEEEEEE! IT'S A HORRIBLE MONSTER! IT'LL KILL US ALL!! HELP! HELP! HELP!!

HIDE, EVERYBODY! WATCH ALL PLUTO DIE OF FRIGHT! THEN WE RUN OUT, CHOP ICHTHY TO PIECES AND BECOME HEROES!

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

JUST AT THIS MOMENT, THERE ARE VAGUE RUMBLINGS IN THE EARTH, NOT FAR FROM PLUTO CITY.

AMID SHIVERS AND SHAKES A HUGE LIVE ICHTHYSAURUS TYRANNOSAURUS ETC POKES ITS HEAD OUT, SNIFFS THE BREEZE AND RUMBLES OFF TO FOLLOW THE SCENT.. FOR ICHTHY ISN'T EXTINCT AT ALL!!

©GM

THE LUMBERING MONSTER FORAGES NOISILY FOR FOOD, UPROOTING ICE-ENCRUSTED TREES ALL THE WAY TO TOWN. . .

ARRUM RRR! GGG!! SSSSSS!

FINALLY IT COMES TO THE CITY. . .

HUH?? SOMEBODY'S PLAYING A TRICK ON US! B-BUT THOSE BONES HAVE BEEN BONES FOR TEN MILLION YEARS! . . . . THE BOOK SAYS. .

GO TELL THE GUY WHO WROTE THAT BOOK HE'S NUTS!

I'M NOT WAITIN' TO FIGURE THIS OUT . C'MON. RUN!

ARMED TO THE TEETH, THE PENGUINS OF PLUTO RUSH TO THE HOTEL. . .

OH! OH! THERE'S TWO OF THEM NOW!

I DIDN'T REALLY WANTA HAFTA BE, BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE. I'VE GOTTA BE A HERO!

AT TOP SPEED HE ADVANCES ON THE MONSTER.

BUT IT ISN'T THE FAKE ONE HE BUILT. . . .

THIS IS THE LIVE ONE!

©GM

ALL THE INHABITANTS OF PLUTO USE THEIR WEAPONS AGAINST ONE HUGE CREATURE. .

HE DOESN'T RESIST AT ALL!

BUT THEIR EFFORTS, DIRECTED TO THE FALSE MONSTER, CAUSE IT TO CRUMBLE!

MEANWHILE NORGE MANAGES TO SINK HIS SPEAR INTO THE LIVING BEASTS' THROAT..

AFTER TOSSING NORGE THROUGH SPACE, THE MONSTER SINKS TO THE GROUND

DEAD SPEAR GOT HIM!

OH DEAR! WHAT'LL WE DO WITH THE BODY?

WE EAT!

SOON NORGE WORMS OUT OF HIS LANDING PLACE..THE PILE OF SNOW THAT WAS ONCE ICHTHY etc (THE FALSE ONE)

THE NERVE OF 'EM! THEY'RE ALL HEROES! STUFFIN' THEIR STOMACHS AT A BARBECUE!

UM YUM! JUST THINK..IF NOT FOR JOLIE AND ME..AND NORGE . SAY! WHERE IS NORGE?

JUST AS NORGE SHOVES ASIDE A SHIN-BONE TO CRAWL OUT, THE REST OF ICHTHYSAURUS TYRANNOSAURUS GIGANTICUS TUMBLES DOWN. .

AND IT WAS ALL MY IDEA! OUCH!

NORGE PULLS YOUR OTHER FUNNY BONE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

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Star Pirate

by LEONARDO VINCI

STAR PIRATE, BOLD ROBIN HOOD OF THE SPACE LANES, PILOTS TO RELIEVE A RELENTLESS DICTATOR OF HIS ILL-GOTTEN GAINS, ONLY TO FIND HIMSELF TRAPPED WITH A HANG-MAN'S NOOSE AROUND HIS NECK!

SITTING SIDE BY SIDE IN THEIR SPACE-SHIP, VENGEANCE, STAR PIRATE AND TRODY PLOT THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DICTATOR OF THE PLANETOID, ZEV, HAS RAISED THE TAXES AGAIN!

ENOUGH SAID! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

SWOOPING FROM ITS PATH, TRODY HEADS THE SHIP TOWARD THE SMALL PLANETOID!

LATER, HAVING CONCEALED THEIR SHIP IN THE NEARBY WOODS, THEY ENTER THE TOWN.

THE PEOPLE CERTAINLY ARE OPPRESSED! LOOK!

STOP! THIEF!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU ARRESTING THIS MAN?

HE STOLE A LOAF OF BREAD!

IT'LL MEAN FIVE YEARS IN THE WORK-HOUSE! SAY, STRANGER, WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?

I'LL MAKE IT MY BUSINESS! PITCH IN, TRUDY!

UGHH!

I'M WITH YOU MATEY! HOW'S THIS FOR A STARTER?

CLUB!

RUN, BUDDY, HERE COMES THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE!

LATER, SAFE OUTSIDE THE TOWN

MY NAME IS ROGER! YOU SAVED ME! THE DICTATOR HAS TAKEN MY POS-SESSIONS! I HAD TO STEAL TO LIVE!

SON, WE'LL PUT A STOP TO THAT! COME WITH US!

THAT NIGHT, WITH STEALTHY STEPS THEY CREEP TO THE PALACE GATE

KEEP BACK! HERE COMES A CARRIAGE!

IT'S THE DICTATOR! COME ON WE'LL FIND A WAY IN!

HAND OVER HAND, THEY CLIMB THE CASTLE WALL...

SAFE INSIDE, THEY HIDE ON THE BALCONY!

WE'LL SLIP DOWN TO THE VAULTS AND HELP OURSELVES WHILE THE PARTY IS GOING ON!

SUDDENLY, WHILE THEY WATCH, SEVERAL BANDITS RUSH INTO THE ROOM.

EVERYBODY REACH! THIS IS A STICK-UP!

IT'S ROBBER RED!

YOU MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A PIKER! OPEN YOUR VAULT AND HAND OVER YOUR DOUGH OR ELSE!

THERE'S A TIME LOCK ON IT! IT WON'T OPEN UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING!

VERY WELL! I'LL TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AS HOSTAGE! IF THE DOOR ISN'T ON PLANETOID X TOMORROW NIGHT, YOU'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN!

DAD, STOP THEM!

MEANWHILE, BEEF AND HIS COMPANIONS WATCH FROM THE BALCONY.

GOSH! ROBBER RED'S GOT MARGO, THE DICTATOR'S DAUGHTER!

AREN'T WE GOING TO STEP INTO THE PICTURE?

TAKE YOUR TIME! AFTER ALL, WE ARE AFTER THE MONEY, TOO! WE'LL FOLLOW RED!

LATER, WITH THE GIRL AS PRISONER, ROBBER RED AND HIS CREW MAKE THEIR ECAPE

MEANWHILE, STAR PIRATE RETURNS TO HIS SHIP

WE'LL FOLLOW ALONG BEHIND RED!

I SEE THEM! PUT ON A LITTLE MORE SPEED, TRODY! WE DON'T WANT THEM TO GET OUT OF SIGHT!

LATER, ON A TINY PLANETOID, THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM ZEV.

WE MADE GOOD OUR GETAWAY! PUT THE GIRL IN THE CAVE!

MEANWHILE, STAR PIRATE BEACHES HIS SHIP ON ANOTHER PART OF THE PLANETOID...

WE'LL DROP ANCHOR HERE AND SCOUT AROUND AND FIND WHERE RED'S HIDE-OUT IS!

AFTER A BRIEF SEARCH, THEY LOCATE THE PIRATE LAIR

SHH THERE THEY ARE LISTEN!

I'M GOING TO DOUBLE-CROSS THAT RAT I'LL GET THE GOLD AND MARRY THE GIRL, TOO!

SUDDENLY, MARGO BREAKS FROM HER CAPTORS!

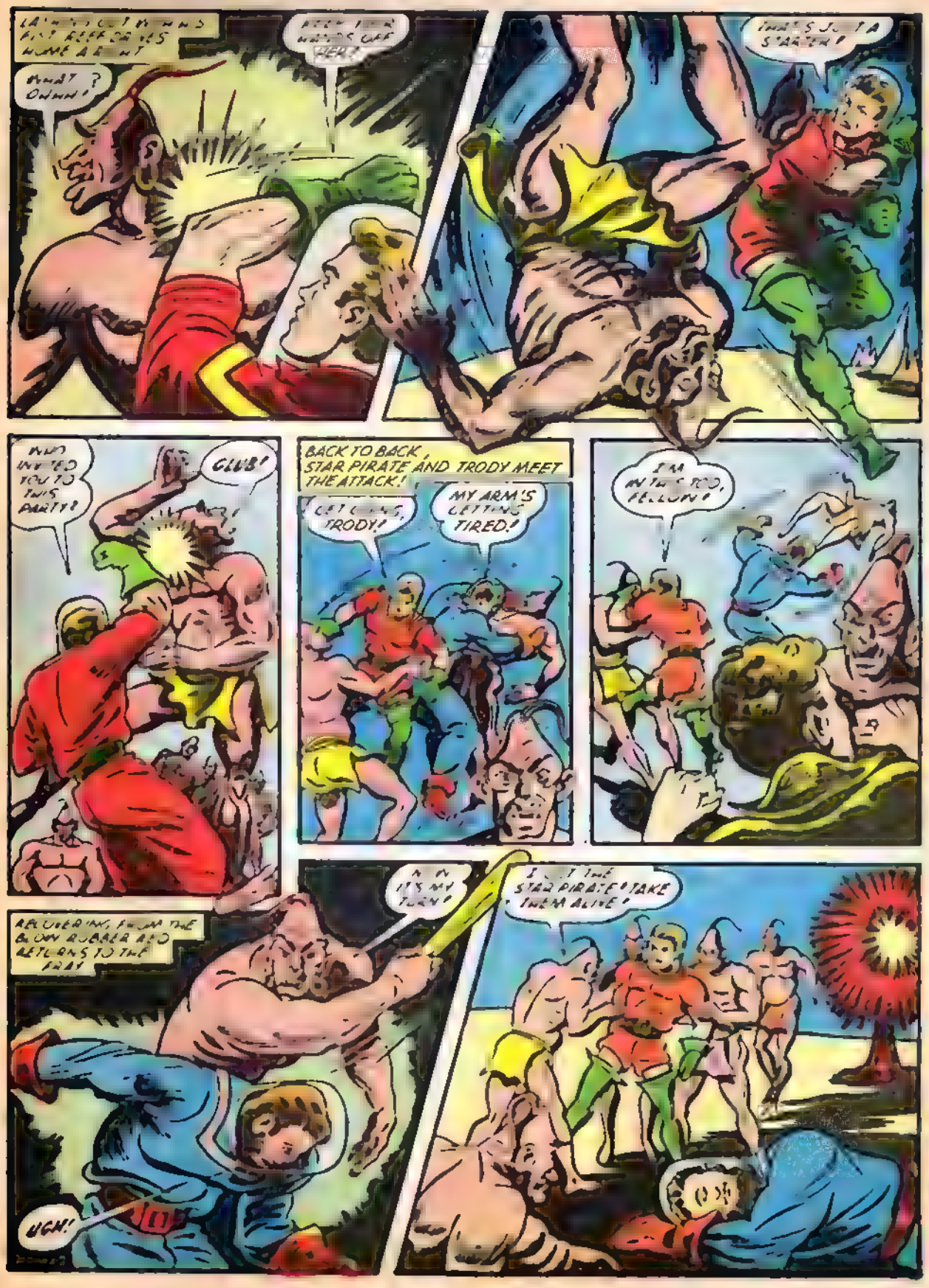
I'LL NEVER MARRY YOU!

FOOLS! CATCH HER!

COME ON, BOYS! TIME TO STICK OUR NOSE IN!

PLEASE LET ME GO! OHHH!

SHUT UP! YOU WON'T TRY THAT TRICK AGAIN!


WHAT ?
OWWW !
HERE I COME WITH MY CLUB !
THAT'S JUST A START !
WHO INVITED YOU TO THIS PARTY ?
CLUB !
BACK TO BACK, STAR PIRATE AND TRODY MEET THE ATTACK !
GET CLOSE, TRODY !
MY ARM'S GETTING TIRED !
I'M WITH YOU, FELLOW !
RECOVERING FROM THE BLOW RUBBER AND RETURNS TO THE FRAY
NOW IT'S MY TURN !
I ... I THE STAR PIRATE ? TAKE THEM ALIVE !
UGH !

OVERPOWERED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS, STAR PIRATE AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE BROUGHT FACE TO FACE WITH ROBBER RED!

ROBBER RED, I'M THE STAR PIRATE! SEEMS WE'RE IN THE SAME BUSINESS!

SO AT LAST WE MEET! IT'LL BE THE LAST TIME, I ASSURE YOU OF THAT!

MEN, IT'S TIME WE COLLECTED THE RANSOM! TIE UP THE PRISONERS AND LEAVE A GUARD WITH THEM. WHEN WE RETURN, I'LL SHOW THEM THE GOLD AND THEN MAKE THEM WALK THE PLANK!

ORDERS CARRIED OUT, ROBBER RED AND HIS CREW BOARD THEIR SHIP!

THE PIRATE CRAFT TAKES OFF.

HELPLESS, STAR PIRATE AND HIS COMPANIONS ARE LEFT UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE GUARD!

YOU LOOK LIKE A KIND MAN! PLEASE UNTIE MY HANDS AND GIVE ME A DRINK.

YOU AIN'T FOOLING ME ABOUT MY LOOKS, MISS, BUT I'LL TAKE A CHANCE!

THE GUARD RELEASES THE GIRL

NOW, HOW ABOUT IT?.. HAVE YOU GOT A KISS FOR ONE-EYE PETE?

YOU ARE HANDSOME!

BUT YOU NEED A BATH!

UGH!

BLINDED, PETE WIPES HIS EYES.
YOU MINX! I'LL ..
I'LL TAKE THIS!
UNTIE THEM! .. I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!
GOOD WORK, MISS!
I'LL DO AS YOU SAY BUT ONE-EYE PETE DON'T FORGET .. HE DON'T!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER.
HERE COMES ROBBER RED AND HIS CREW. BE READY FOR THEM!
LET THEM ALL GET OUT BEFORE WE ATTACK!
CARRYING THE HEAVY RANSOM, THE PIRATES LEAVE THE SHIP.
THIS IS THE BEST HAUL YET!
SUDDENLY STAR PIRATE STEPS OUT
BLACKGUARDS! .. UP WITH YOUR HANDS!
WHILE UNSEEN, ABOVE THEM IN THE SKY
TRODY, BE SURE THEY'RE WELL TIED!.. YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO ANSWER FOR, REO!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO HAVE LEFT ONLY ONE GUARD!
SUDDENLY, SEVERAL UNIFORMED OFFICERS STEP INTO THE CIRCLE.
IN THE NAME OF THE PRINCE OF ZEV, I ARREST YOU!
IT'S THE DICTATOR'S ARMY!
I'M SAVED!

ON ZEV

IT WON'T MUCH LONGER! THIS IS THE DAY WE DIE!

THE PRISON CORRIDOR.

ROGER DARLING, I'VE BROUGHT THE KEYS!

SPRING THE DROP! THE STAR PIRATE AND

DE

THESE KIDS ARE IN LOVE! YOU APPROVE OF THEIR MARRIAGE, DON'T YOU? WELL, BRING ON THE MINISTER!

I GUESS SO!

AFTER THE CEREMONY

WHAT'S THAT?... YOU MARRIED MY DAUGHTER TO A BEGGAR AND NOW YOU'RE STEALING MY GOLD!

YOU WOULDN'T WANT MY FINGER TO SLIP! ROGER AND MARGO ARE TAKING OVER YOUR JOB!

LATER, ON BOARD THE SPACE SHIP VENGEANCE

SKY PIRATE, WHAT'S NEXT?

YOU'LL SEE SOON ENOUGH, TRODY!

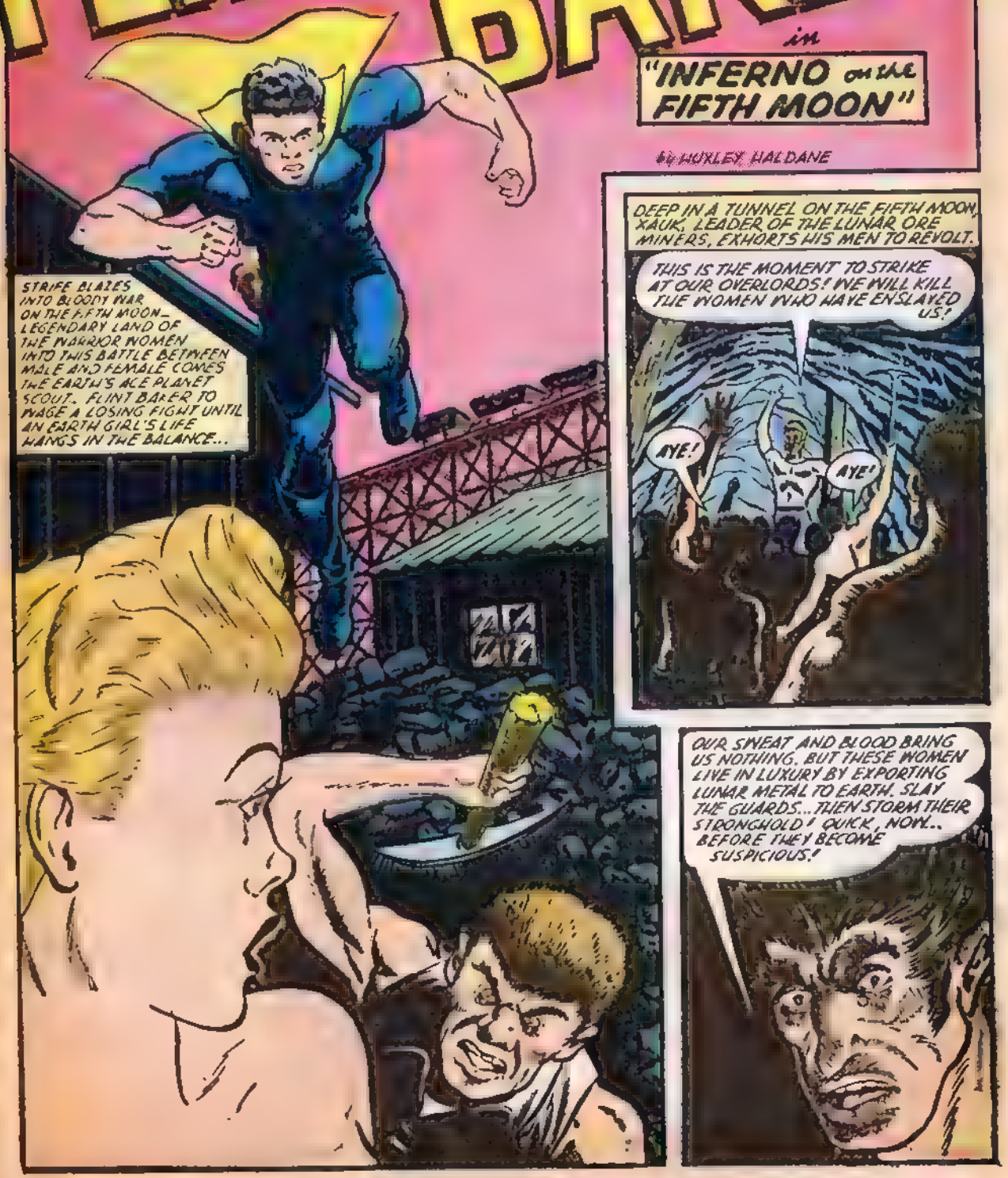
STAR PIRATE AND TRODY MEET A STRANGE TERROR OF THE SPACE-WAYS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

FLINT BAKER

in

"INFERNO on the FIFTH MOON"

by HUXLEY HALDANE


STRIFE BLAZES INTO BLOODY WAR ON THE FIFTH MOON— LEGENDARY LAND OF THE WARRIOR WOMEN INTO THIS BATTLE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE COMES THE EARTH'S ACE PLANET SCOUT.. FLINT BAKER TO WAGE A LOSING FIGHT UNTIL AN EARTH GIRL'S LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE...
DEEP IN A TUNNEL ON THE FIFTH MOON, XAUK, LEADER OF THE LUNAR ORE MINERS, EXHORTS HIS MEN TO REVOLT.
THIS IS THE MOMENT TO STRIKE AT OUR OVERLORDS! WE WILL KILL THE WOMEN WHO HAVE ENSLAVED US!
AYE!
AYE!
OUR SWEAT AND BLOOD BRING US NOTHING, BUT THESE WOMEN LIVE IN LUXURY BY EXPORTING LUNAR METAL TO EARTH. SLAY THE GUARDS...THEN STORM THEIR STRONGHOLD! QUICK, NOW... BEFORE THEY BECOME SUSPICIOUS!

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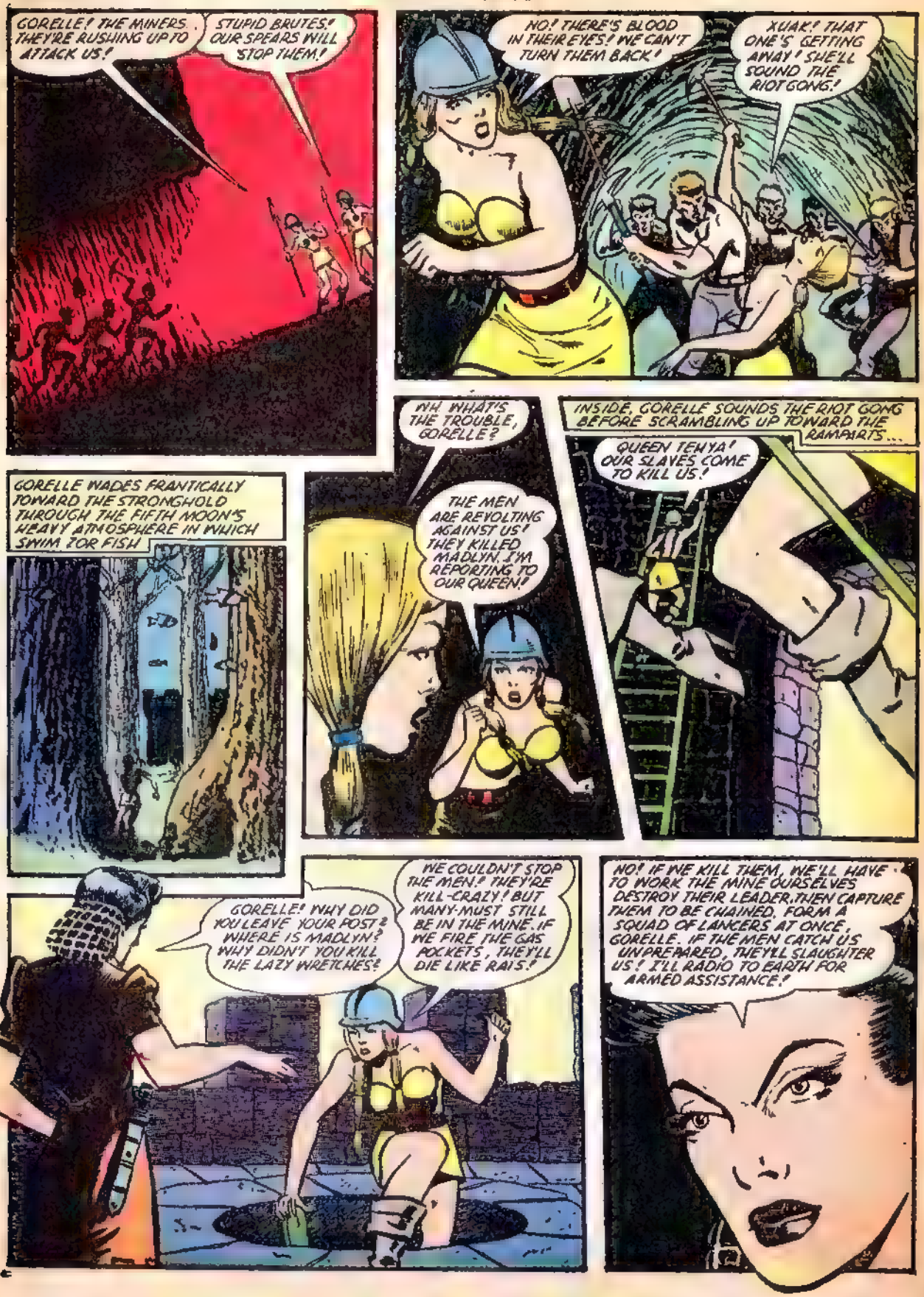
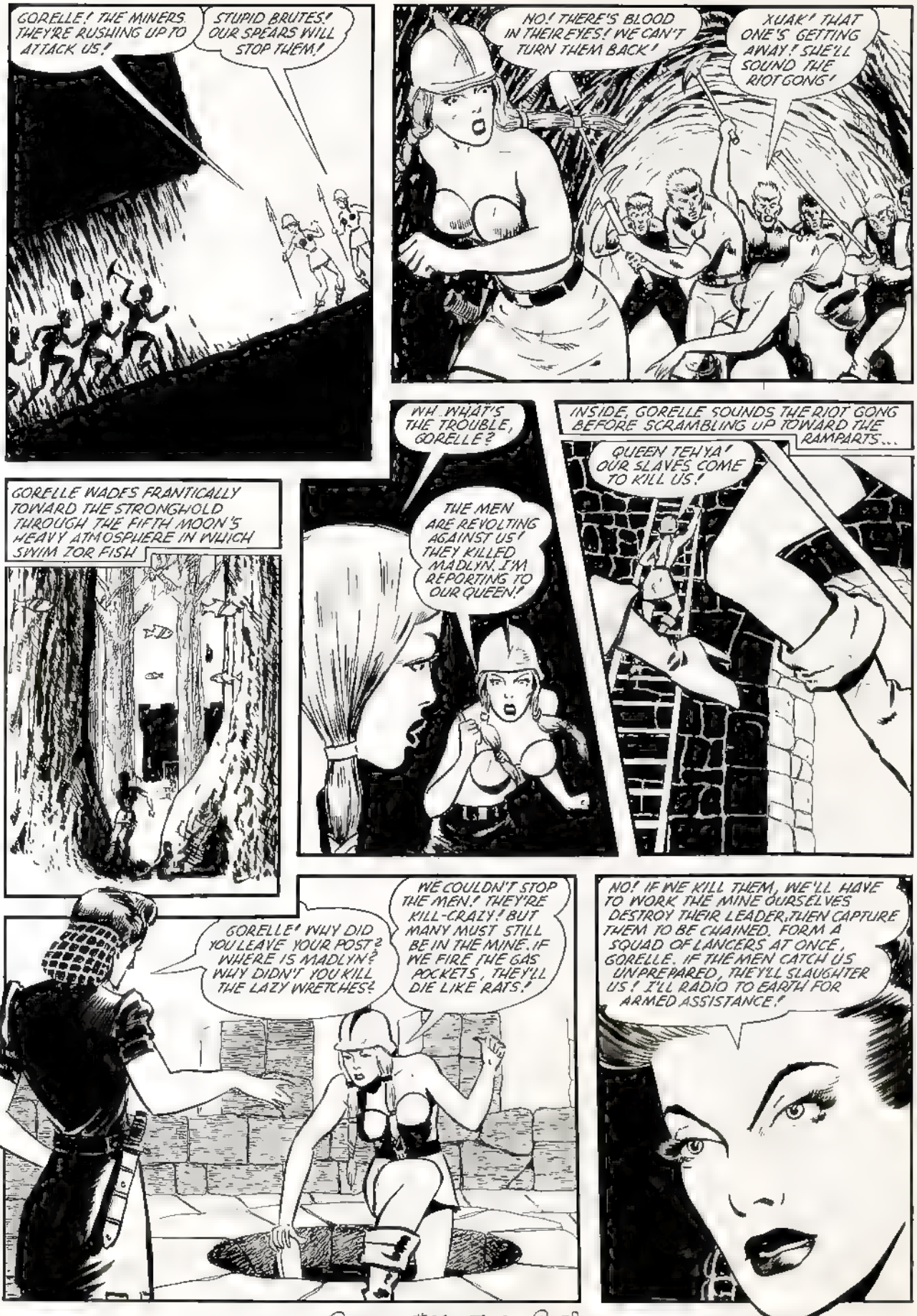
PLANET #22 F-8 P-57


GORELLE! THE MINERS. THEY'RE RUSHING UP TO ATTACK US!
STUPID BRUTES! OUR SPEARS WILL STOP THEM!
NO! THERE'S BLOOD IN THEIR EYES! WE CAN'T TURN THEM BACK!
XUAK! THAT ONE'S GETTING AWAY! SHE'LL SOUND THE RIOT GONG!
GORELLE WADES FRANTICALLY TOWARD THE STRONGHOLD THROUGH THE FIFTH MOON'S HEAVY ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH SWIM ZOR FISH
NH WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, GORELLE?
THE MEN ARE REVOLTING AGAINST US! THEY KILLED MADLYN. I'M REPORTING TO OUR QUEEN!
INSIDE, GORELLE SOUNDS THE RIOT GONG BEFORE SCRAMBLING UP TOWARD THE RAMPARTS...
QUEEN TEHYA! OUR SLAVES COME TO KILL US!
GORELLE! WHY DID YOU LEAVE YOUR POST? WHERE IS MADLYN? WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL THE LAZY WRETCHES!
WE COULDN'T STOP THE MEN! THEY'RE KILL-CRAZY! BUT MANY MUST STILL BE IN THE MINE. IF WE FIRE THE GAS POCKETS, THEY'LL DIE LIKE RATS!
NO! IF WE KILL THEM, WE'LL HAVE TO WORK THE MINE OURSELVES DESTROY THEIR LEADER, THEN CAPTURE THEM TO BE CHAINED. FORM A SQUAD OF LANCERS AT ONCE, GORELLE. IF THE MEN CATCH US UNPREPARED, THEY'LL SLAUGHTER US! I'LL RADIO TO EARTH FOR ARMED ASSISTANCE!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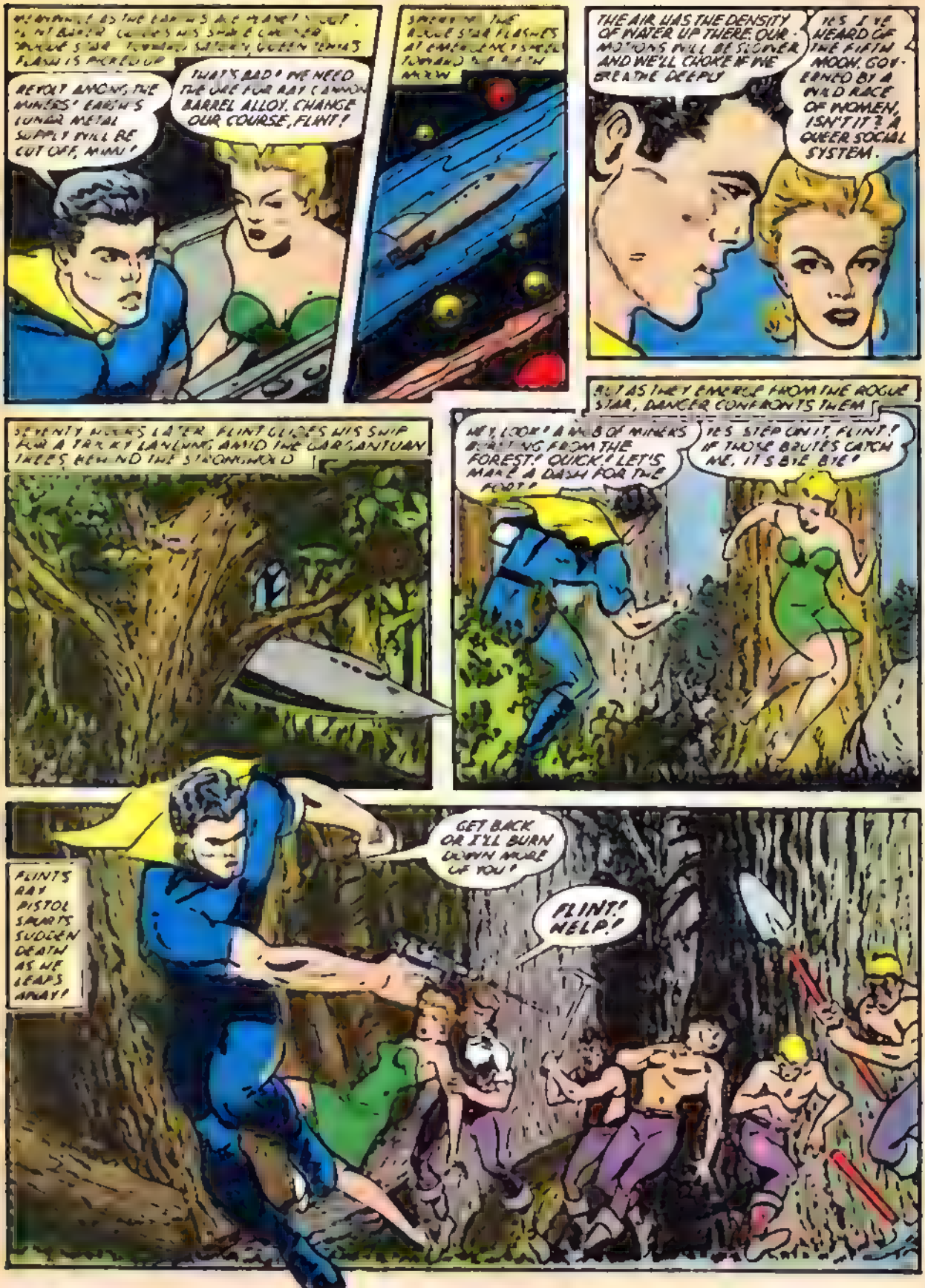
REPORT AMONG THE MINERS' EARTH'S LONGER METAL SUPPLY WILL BE CUT OFF, MIMI!
THAT'S BAD! WE NEED THE ORE FOR RAY CANNON BARREL ALLOY. CHANGE OUR COURSE, FLINT!
SPEED OF THE ROGUE STAR FLAGGES AT EMPLOYENT'S SIGNAL TOWARD THE EARTH MOON
THE AIR HAS THE DENSITY OF WATER UP THERE. OUR MOTIONS WILL BE SLOWER AND WE'LL CHOKE IF WE BREATHE DEEPLY
IT'S I'VE HEARD OF THE FIFTH MOON. GOVERNED BY A WILD RACE OF WOMEN, ISN'T IT? A QUEER SOCIAL SYSTEM.
SEVENTY HOURS LATER. FLINT GUIDES HIS SHIP FOR A TRICKY LANDING AMID THE GARGANTUAN TREES BEHIND THE STOCKADE
BUT AS THEY EMERGE FROM THE ROGUE STAR, DANGER CONFRONTS THEM
HEY, LOOK! A MOB OF MINERS RUNNING FROM THE FOREST! QUICK! LET'S MAKE A DASH FOR THE FOOT!
IT'S STEP ON IT, FLINT! IF THOSE BRUTES CATCH ME, IT'S BYE BYE!
FLINT'S RAY PISTOL SPARKS SUDDEN DEATH AS HE LEAPS AWAY!
GET BACK OR I'LL BURN DOWN ANY ONE OF YOU!
FLINT! HELP!

MEANWHILE, AS THE EARTH'S ACE PLANET SCOUT FLINT BAKER GUIDES HIS SPACE CRUISER, "ROGUE STAR" TOWARD SATURN, QUEEN TEHYA'S FLASH IS PICKED UP
REVOLT AMONG THE MINERS! EARTH'S LUNAR METAL SUPPLY WILL BE CUT OFF, MIMI!
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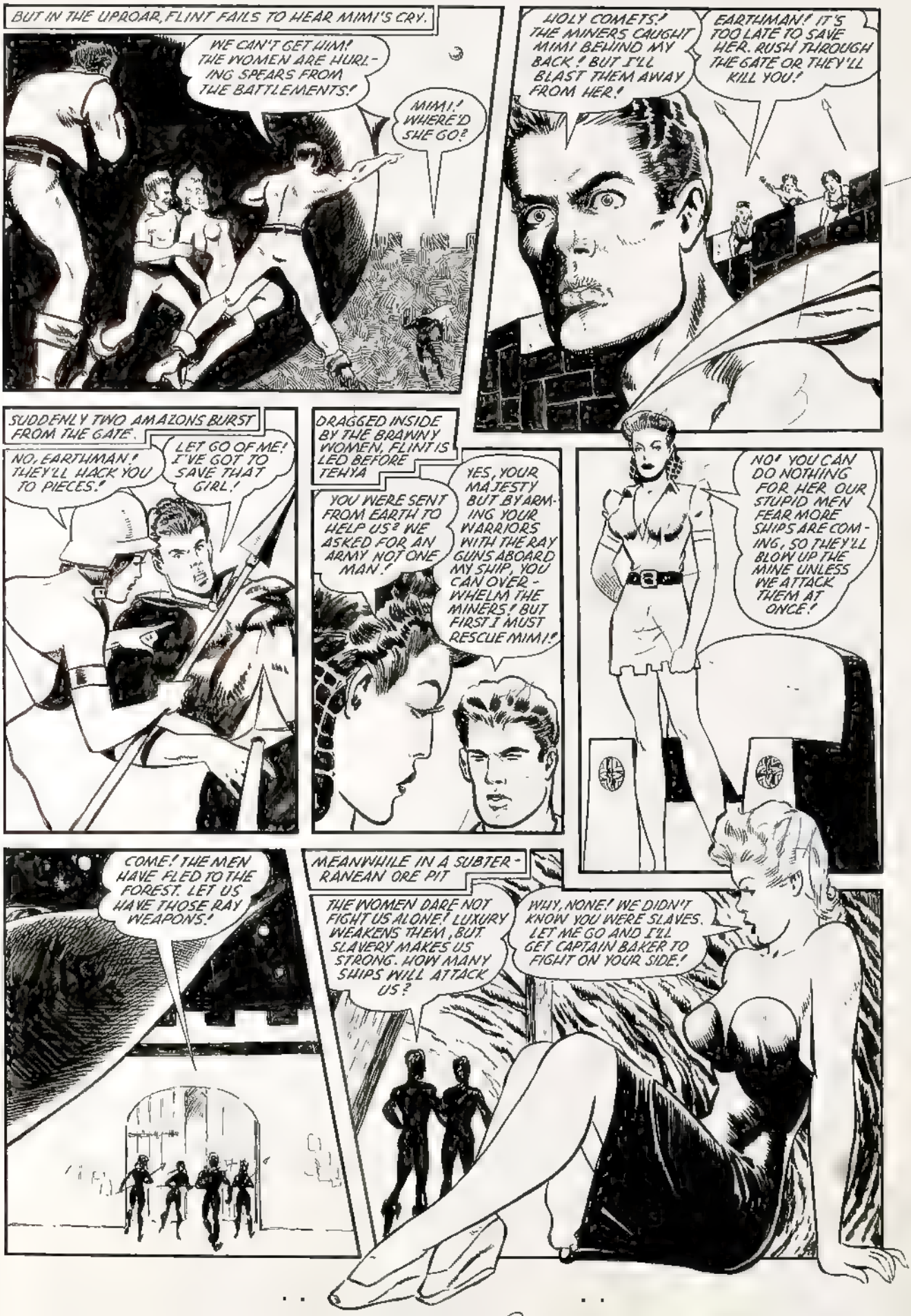
YES, STEP ON IT, FLINT! IF THOSE BRUTES CATCH ME, IT'S BYE-BYE!
FLINT'S RAY PISTOL SPURTS SUDDEN DEATH AS HE LEAPS AWAY!
GET BACK, OR I'LL BURN DOWN MORE OF YOU!
FLINT! HELP!

PLANET #22 F-6 P59

BUT IN THE UPROAR, FLINT FAILS TO HEAR MIMI'S CRY
WE CAN'T GET HIM! THE WOMEN ARE HURLING SPEARS FROM THE BATTLEMENTS!
MIMI! WHERE'D SHE GO?
HOLY COMETS! THE MINERS CAUGHT MIMI BEHIND MY BACK! BUT I'LL BLAST THEM AWAY FROM HER!
EARTHMAN! IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE HER RUSH THROUGH THE GATE OR THEY'LL KILL YOU!
SUDDENLY TWO AMAZONS BURST FROM THE GATE
NO, EARTHMAN! THEY'LL HACK YOU TO PIECES!
LET GO OF ME! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THAT GIRL!
DRAGGED INSIDE BY THE BRAWNY WOMEN FLINT IS LED BEFORE TEMIA
YOU WERE SENT FROM EARTH TO HELP US? WE ASKED FOR AN ARMY NOT ONE MAN!
YES, YOUR MAJESTY BUT BY ARMING YOUR WARRIORS WITH THE RAY GUNS ABOARD MY SHIP, YOU CAN OVERWHELM THE MINERS! BUT FIRST I MUST RESCUE MIMI!
NO! YOU CAN DO NOTHING FOR HER OUR STUPID MEN FEAR MORE SHIPS ARE COMING, SO THEY'LL BLOW UP THE MINE UNLESS WE ATTACK THEM AT ONCE!
COME! THE MEN HAVE FLED TO THE FOREST. LET US HAVE THOSE RAY WEAPONS!
MEANWHILE IN A SUBTERRANEAN ORE PIT
THE WOMEN DARE NOT FIGHT US ALONE! LUXURY WEAKENS THEM, BUT SLAVERY MAKES US STRONG. HOW MANY SHIPS WILL ATTACK US?
WHY, NONE! WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SLAVES LET ME GO AND I'LL GET CAPTAIN BAKER TO FIGHT ON YOUR SIDE!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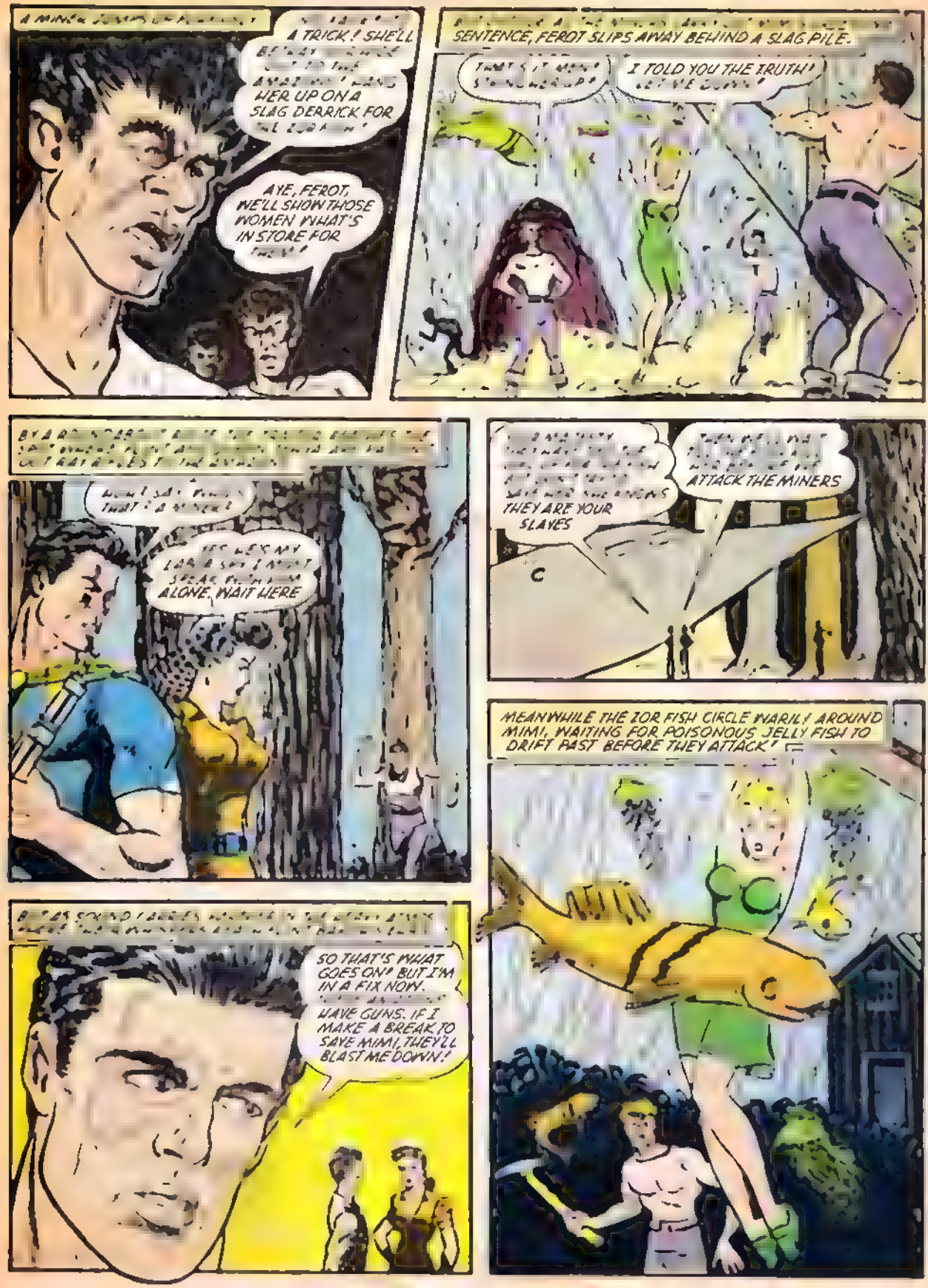
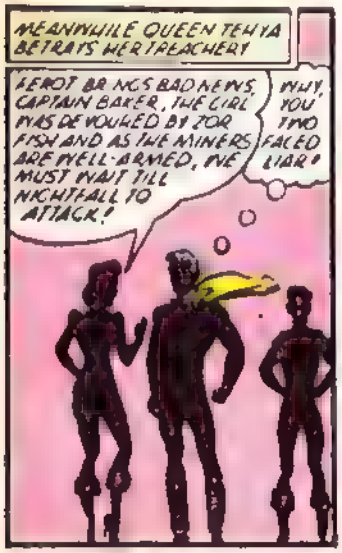

A TRICK! SHE'LL
HER UP ON A
SLAG DERRICK FOR
AYE, FEROT,
WE'LL SHOW THOSE
WOMEN WHAT'S
IN STORE FOR
SENTENCE, FEROT SLIPS AWAY BEHIND A SLAG PILE.
I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH!
ALONE. WAIT HERE
ATTACK THE MINERS
THEY ARE YOUR
SLAVES
C
MEANWHILE THE ZOR FISH CIRCLE WARILY AROUND
MIMI, WAITING FOR POISONOUS JELLY FISH TO
DRIFT PAST BEFORE THEY ATTACK!
SO THAT'S WHAT
GOES ON! BUT I'M
IN A FIX NOW.
HAVE GUNS. IF I
MAKE A BREAK TO
SAVE MIMI, THEY'LL
BLAST ME DOWN!

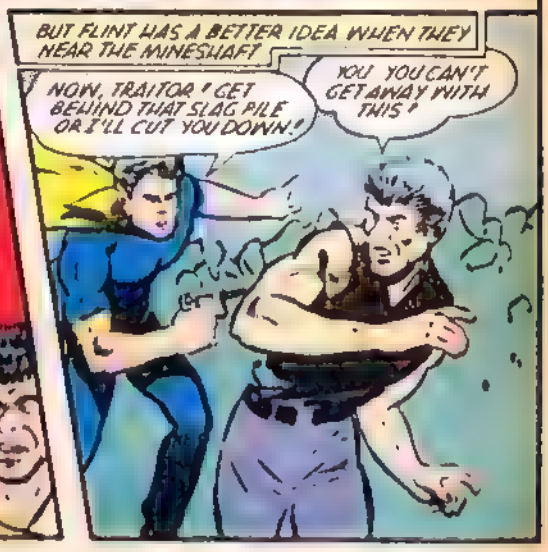
SPIRALING THROUGH THE MURKY WATERS WHERE THE UGLY ZORS EYE MIMI'S TREMBLING FLESH GREEDILY

RAZOR SHARP TEETH TEAR MIMI'S ARM AND A TENDRIL OF BLOOD GASES AS THE FISH DARTS SUDDENLY AWAY

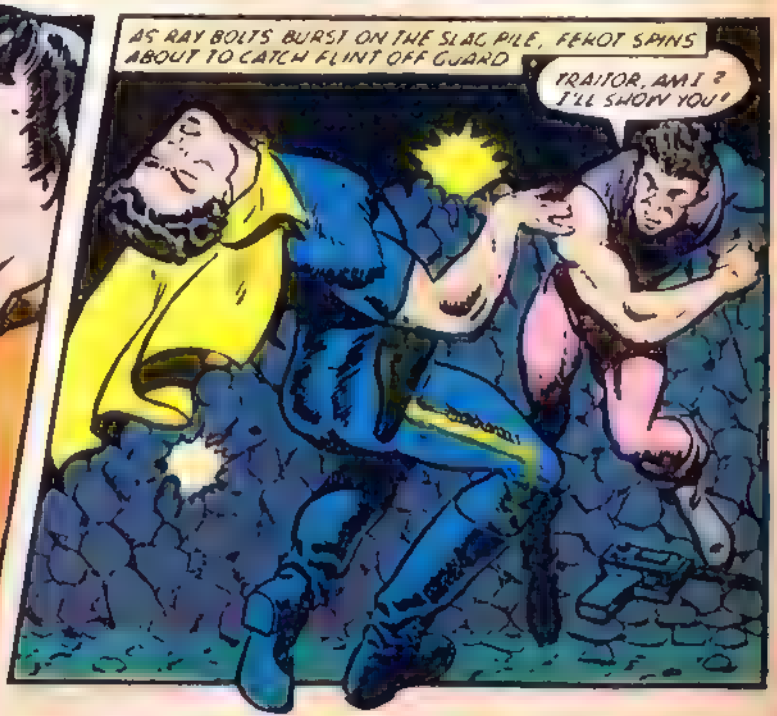
CROWDING THE TUNNEL MOUTH ARE XAAR AND THE MINE SLAVES
THIS SENTENCE IS TOO CRUEL. MEN THAT GIRL MAY HAVE TOLD THE TRUTH!
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, XAAR BUT LOOK! WHERE'S FEROT?
HE'S NOT IN THE SHAFT!


MEANWHILE QUEEN TEHYA BETRAYS HER TREACHERY
FEROT BRINGS BAD NEWS, CAPTAIN BAKER, THE GIRL WAS DEVOURED BY ZOR FISH AND AS THE MINERS ARE WELL-ARMED, WE MUST WAIT TILL NIGHTFALL TO ATTACK!
WHY, YOU TWO FACED LIAR!

NO! I'VE A BETTER PLAN FEROT WILL PRETEND TO TAKE ME BACK AS A CAPTIVE. NEAR THE MINE I'LL BREAK LOOSE, AND WHEN THE MEN RUSH OUT, YOUR AMAZONS CAN RAY THEM!
FINE IDEA! GO AHEAD!


BUT FLINT HAS A BETTER IDEA WHEN THEY NEAR THE MINESHAFT
NOW, TRAITOR! GET BEHIND THAT SLAG PILE OR I'LL CUT YOU DOWN!
YOU YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

QUEEN TEHYA'S SHARP EYES SPY BAKER'S MANEUVER.
THAT VILE EARTHMAN TRICKED US! FIRE AWAY! KILL HIM!


AS RAY BOLTS BURST ON THE SLAG PILE, FEROT SPINS ABOUT TO CATCH FLINT OFF GUARD
TRAITOR, AM I? I'LL SHOW YOU!

BUT A LONG HOOK IN DENSE AIR HAS LITTLE VELOCITY.

GET BACK, FEROT, OR I'LL BURN YOU DOWN!

HE DROPPED HIS RAY PISTOL! IF I CAN GET IT...

FEROT CLOSES IN FAST, SO BAKER STOPS HIM WITH A SHORT, SWIFT JAB.

NOW I'LL SEE HOW YOU RATE WITH THE MINERS!

DRAGGING FEROT TO THE MINE SHAFT, FLINT HALTS CAUTIOUSLY BEFORE XUAK.

THIS FELLOW'S A TRAITOR, SPYING FOR THE QUEEN. NOW WHERE'S MY CO-PILOT?

YOU'RE CAPTAIN BAKER, EH? GOOD! WE SUSPECTED FEROT OF TREACHERY SO WE SPARED THE WOMAN WHOSE DEATH HE DEMANDED. COME INSIDE.

THE EARTH-WOMAN HAS GONE WITH TWO MINERS BY A SECRET TUNNEL TO REACH YOUR SHIP.

A SECRET TUNNEL? SO THAT'S HOW YOU SURPRISED US WHEN WE LANDED. BUT THEY MAY FALL INTO A TRAP. LEAD THE WAY, QUICK!

FLINT FOLLOWS XUAK TO A CONCEALED DOOR CUT FROM SOLID ROCK.

HERE'S THE TUNNEL. GO AHEAD, BAKER. WE CAN'T CATCH UP WITH THEM UNLESS WE HURRY!

BUT ALREADY MIMI AND HER GUIDES ARE EMERGING FROM THE TUNNEL.

QUEEN TEHYA, LOOK! THEY COME FROM THE TREE ROOTS!

OPEN FIRE! RAY THEM!

QUICK! INTO THE FOREST, MEN!

AFTER HER! SPREAD YOUR RAYS TO COVER EVERY OPENING!

THE MEN... DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE! RAYED IN THE BACK!

AS MIMI FLEES INTO THE FOREST, FLINT, XUAK AND HIS MEN POUR FROM THE TUNNEL.

SHE MUST HAVE GOT AWAY!

HERE'S OUR OPENING! ATTACK THEM FROM THE REAR! QUICK; NOW!

RUSHING SILENTLY UPON THE AMAZONS, THE MINERS WREAK THEIR JUST VENGEANCE.

THAT'S IT! DROP THE GUN, TEHYA! I'M TURNING YOU OVER TO YOUR SLAVES!

NO! NO!

WINNING A SWIFT BATTLE, THE MINERS DRAG SURVIVING AMAZONS AND QUEEN TEHYA INTO THE TUNNEL.

GO AHEAD WITH THE NEXT MOVE, CAPTAIN BAKER, BEFORE THEIR REINFORCEMENTS SURGE OUT!

RIGHT! BUT WHAT— WHERE'S MIMI?

INSIDE THE ROGUE STAR. . .

OH, FLINT! I DUCKED IN HERE DURING THE BATTLE!

THANK JUPITER, YOU'RE SAFE, MIMI! I'M TAKING OFF NOW TO BLAST THE FORTRESS!

ZOOMING OFF IN A TIGHT ARC, FLINT NOSES HIS SHIP FOR THE BLOCKHOUSE.

MAN THE RAY CANNON, MIMI, IT'S A WOMAN'S JOB THIS TIME!

WE'RE TRAPPED!

IN GRIM REPRISAL MIMI TRIGGERS RAPID FIRE RAY BLASTS AT THE STONE BASTION.

...AND AMID SCREAMS OF THE DYING AMAZONS, THE WALLS CRUMBLE WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR...

LANDING NEAR THE MINE, FLINT AND MIMI REPORT TO XUAK..

NOW YOU CAN WORK AS FREE MEN. EARTH WILL IMPORT ALL THE LUNAR ORE YOU CAN MINE, BUT WHAT OF TEHYA AND YOUR OTHER CAPTIVES?

THEY'LL BE CONDEMNED TO SPEND THEIR DAYS COOKING FOR US!

WHAT PUNISHMENT COULD BE WORSE FOR THOSE WOMEN! BUT WATCH OUT THEY DON'T SLIP POISON IN THE PASTRIES!

Keep Them Supplied BUY WAR SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS

A WEIRD MYSTERY OF SPACE AWAITS FLINT BAKER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PLANET** COMICS!!

WHY GUESS? GET THE BEST

FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES

THE BIG SIX OF THE COMIC MAGAZINES

Every one a winner—jam-packed full of fast-action and dramatic adventure

LOOK FOR THE BULL'S-EYE WHEN YOU BUY

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The 97 Pound Weakling

—Who became "the World's Most Perfectly Developed Man"

"I'll prove that YOU too can be a NEW MAN!"

—Charles Atlas

CHARLES ATLAS
Holder of title, "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

I KNOW, myself, what it means to have the kind of body that people pity! Of course, you wouldn't know it to look at me now, but I was once a skinny weakling who weighed only 97 lbs! I was ashamed to strip for sports or undress for a swim. I was such a poor specimen of physical development that I was constantly self-conscious and embarrassed. And I felt only HALF-ALIVE.

Then I discovered *"Dynamic Tension."* It gave me a body that won for me the title "World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

When I say I can make you over into a man of giant power and energy, I know what I'm talking about. I've seen my new system, *"Dynamic Tension,"* transform hundreds of weak, puny men into Atlas Champions.

Only 15 Minutes a Day

Do you want big, broad shoulders—a fine, powerful chest—biceps like steel—arms and legs rippling with muscular strength—a stomach ridged with bands of sinewy muscle—and a build you can be proud of? Then just give me the opportunity to prove that *"Dynamic Tension"* is what you need.

No "ifs," and "ands," or "maybes." Just tell me where you want handsome, powerful muscles. Are you fat and flabby? Or skinny and gawky? Are you short-winded, pepless? Do you hold back and let others walk off with the prettiest girls, best jobs, etc.? Then write for details about *"Dynamic Tension"* and learn how I can make you a healthy, confident, powerful HE-MAN.

"Dynamic Tension" is an entirely NATURAL method. Only 15 minutes of your spare time daily is enough to show amazing results—and it's actually fun. *"Dynamic Tension"* does the work.

Send for FREE BOOK

Mail the coupon right now for full details and I'll send you my illustrated book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." Tells all about my *"Dynamic Tension"* method. Shows actual photos of men I've made into Atlas Champions. It's a valuable book! And it's FREE. Send for your copy today. Mail the coupon to me personally, CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 236ZA, 115 East 23rd St., New York, N. Y.

CHARLES ATLAS,
Dept. 236ZA, 115 East 23rd Street,
New York, N. Y.

I want the proof that your system of *"Dynamic Tension"* will help make a New Man of me—give me a healthy, husky body and big muscular development. Send me your free book, "Everlasting Health and Strength."

Name .....
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Address .....

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Check here ☐ for booklet "A" if under 16 years of age.